

STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

IN RE: A Proposed Initial Synthetic
Minor Source Air Operating
Permit for Tiger State Ethanol,
LLC; St. Elmo Facility

The above-entitled cause came in for a
public hearing at the St. James Parish
Courthouse, Courtroom A, 5800 La 44,
Convent, Louisiana 70727 on Tuesday,
January 29, 2008, commencing at 6:30 p.m.

REPORTED BY:
TARA TORRES
CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER IN
AND FOR THE STATE OF
LOUISIANA

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1 MS. WRIGHT:

2 First of all, good evening. Let
3 the Record reflect that the time is
4 now 6:30. My name is Kathy Wright.
5 I'm employed with the Louisiana
6 Department of Environmental Quality
7 and I will be serving as Hearing
8 Officer this evening, Tuesday,
9 January 29, 2008.

10 This hearing is scheduled to
11 accept public comments concerning a
12 proposed initial Synthetic Minor
13 Source Air Operating Permit for
14 Tiger State Ethanol, L.L.C., at 890
15 Hudson Circle, Suite 6, Monroe,
16 Louisiana, 71201, for the St. Elmo
17 Ethanol Facility, Agency Interest
18 Number 153020, Permit Number 2560-
19 00279-00 and Activity Tracking

20 Number PER20070001. The facility
21 will be located at 3338 Highway 44,
22 Paulina, St. James Parish,
23 Louisiana.
24 Tiger State Ethanol, L.L.C. has
25 requested an Initial Synthetic Minor

1 Source Air Operating Permit for
2 their proposed St. Elmo Ethanol
3 Facility.

4 Tiger State Ethanol proposes to
5 construct and operate a 110 million
6 gallon per fuel grade ethanol
7 facility which will be located in
8 Paulina, Louisiana. This is the
9 initial permit for the facility.

10 This permit was processed as an
11 expedited permit in accordance with
12 Louisiana - excuse me. LAC 33
13 Section 1, Chapter 18.

14 This hearing is not being
15 conducted in a question and answer
16 format. I will repeat that. This
17 hearing is not being conducted in a
18 question and answer format. Please
19 remember that the purpose of this

20 public hearing is for LDEQ to
21 receive your comments concerning the
22 proposed Initial Synthetic Minor
23 Source Air Operating Permit. Just
24 as a reminder, please keep your
25 comments within the scope of why

1 we're here tonight. This hearing is
2 to provide all individuals a chance
3 to be heard, regardless of their
4 position on the proposed permit.

5 Courteous behavior is expected
6 of everyone at all times. I repeat,
7 courteous behavior is expected of
8 everyone at all times. Arguing with
9 each other and the hearing officer,
10 me, will not be tolerated. If so,
11 as authorized by Title 30, Section
12 20.27 of the Louisiana Law, I will
13 shut this hearing down.

14 You may speak in support of or
15 in opposition to the proposed permit
16 or simply to provide additional
17 information. All interested persons
18 will be given a reasonable
19 opportunity to comment unless

20 testimony is not related to the
21 purpose of the hearing. Your
22 comments will be evaluated and
23 addressed in the department's
24 written response.
25 A public notice advertising this

1 public hearing and request for
2 public comment on the proposed
3 permit was published on Thursday,
4 December 27, 2007 in The News
5 Examiner, Litcher, Louisiana and
6 also in The Advocate in Baton Rouge,
7 Louisiana.

8 Previous notices regarding this
9 permit action have been published on
10 Wednesday, November 21, 2007 in The
11 Advocate of Baton Rouge and also on
12 Thursday, November 22, 2007 in The
13 News Examiner of Litcher.

14 A copy of the material
15 associated with the proposed permit
16 is available for inspection and
17 review at the LDEQ Public Record
18 Center, Room 127, 602 North 5th
19 Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

20 Viewing hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30
21 p.m. Monday through Friday except
22 holidays.
23 Additional copies are available
24 for review at the St. James Parish
25 Library. Headquarters 1879 West

1 Main Street, Litcher, Louisiana,
2 70071. The available information
3 can also be accessed electronically
4 on the Electronic Document
5 Management System, EDMS, on the DEQ
6 public website at
7 www.deq.louisiana.gov.

8 In addition, copies of the
9 public notice announcing this public
10 hearing were mailed via the U.S.
11 Postal Service and via e-mail on
12 Thursday, December 20, 2007 to
13 individuals who have requested to be
14 placed on the mailing list
15 maintained by the LDEQ, Office of
16 Environmental Services.

17 In accordance with Louisiana
18 Administrative Code, Title 33, Part
19 3, Section 531.A subsections 3.c,

20 comments received by 12:30 p.m.
21 Thursday, January 31, 2008 will be
22 considered prior to a final
23 decision. All comments received by
24 the 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, January
25 31, 2008 shall be retained by the

1 Department and considered in
2 determining whether to issue or deny
3 the proposed Synthetic Initial Minor
4 Source Air Operating Permit.

5 Written comments on the Proposed
6 Permit may be submitted to Ms.
7 Soumaya Ghosn, LDEQ-OES,
8 Environmental Assistance Division,
9 P.O. Box 4313, Baton Rouge,
10 Louisiana 70821-4313.

11 Under the Louisiana Revised
12 Statutes Title 30, section 2017, as
13 revised by the legislature in the
14 2004 session, the Department is
15 required to follow the following
16 order of speakers with the provision
17 that the presiding officer may give
18 preference to a public official to
19 speak at any time during the

20 hearing. However, any time limit
21 set for citizen testimony shall also
22 apply to public officials.

23 This evening the facility
24 representatives will be given up to
25 30 minutes, it doesn't mean they

1 have to take the whole 30 minutes,
2 to - for an introductory
3 presentation. Thereafter,
4 preference for speaking up to one
5 hour is given as follows: For the
6 first hour, those citizens who live
7 within a two-mile radius of the
8 location of the facility. For the
9 second hour, those citizens who work
10 within a two-mile radius of the
11 locations of the facility. And for
12 the third hour, those citizens who
13 live within the parish of the
14 locations of the facility.

15 Thereafter, each hour of the
16 hearing shall alternate between
17 those who are in support of the
18 proposed permit and those who are
19 opposed to it.

20 The order of speakers for
21 tonight's hearing will be based on
22 the information provided by the
23 speaker on the registration form.
24 Anyone who registered to speak, but
25 did not provide the necessary

1 information will be given the
2 opportunity to speak, however, they
3 will be called last in the order of
4 registration.

5 This hearing is being
6 transcribed, therefore, each speaker
7 should begin his or her comments by
8 stating, for the Record, their name,
9 their address, and any organization
10 he or she may represent. If anyone
11 has an exhibit that they would like
12 to submit to LDEQ please bring that
13 exhibit up to me, I will mark it as
14 an exhibit along with a number
15 reported it on - and report it on
16 - in the exhibit's log and the
17 submission of the exhibit will
18 become part of the Record.

19 I also remind you to please turn

20 off all cell phones and other
21 electronic devices. Also, there has
22 been submitted a list of some -
23 I've received word that there have
24 been some issues of a list of names
25 of people who oppose or support the

1 facility, and due to the essence of
2 time all of those names will not be
3 called out here tonight and made
4 part of the Record, but they will be
5 attached to the Record and made a
6 part of it. It will be on the
7 website and everything, but just for
8 tonight we don't have time to call
9 out every name and say "I oppose",
10 you know, "I support".

11 All right. At this time the
12 permit applicant representative may
13 come forward to make their
14 introductory presentation.

15 MR. THOMPSON:

16 Hi everyone. My name is Trevor
17 Thompson and I'm with Excel
18 Contractors and - Hi, my name is
19 Trevor Thompson. I'm with Excel

20 Contractors and I'm here to talk
21 about the project and conduct a
22 statement for Tiger State Ethanol.
23 First I want to thank DEQ for
24 giving us the opportunity to come
25 and speak and also all of the local

1 officials here in St. James Parish
2 and also to the local people who
3 live in the area.

4 We have met with the local
5 community a couple of times and
6 tried to discuss the particular
7 project and we'd like to continue to
8 do that and get more information to
9 where they could feel comfortable
10 with this project and give them all
11 the technical and any new
12 information, finances, financial,
13 anything that they would like to
14 help them feel better about the
15 project.

16 I'm going to start out, of
17 course, you had mentioned that the
18 particular facility is 110 million
19 gallon facility in St. James Parish

20 is where we're proposing it. We had
21 worked with DEQ to propose two other
22 facilities with the Tiger State and
23 we've been successful in supplying
24 all the information that you needed
25 to receive those permits, so we're

1 hoping that we can do the same in
2 this particular case and we look
3 forward to working and doing.

4 Okay. I guess I'll introduce
5 myself again for the folks outside.
6 Trevor Thompson with Excel
7 Contractors and I'm here on behalf
8 to talk for and on behalf of Tiger
9 State Ethanol. Again, we're willing
10 to do anything and everything we can
11 to make the community feel more
12 comfortable with the project. We
13 proposed several different ideas
14 that we would be willing to sit down
15 with the local government and the
16 local politicians in the area, in
17 the community to try to make it a
18 friendly plan for the community and
19 the surrounding areas.

20 A couple of those things, you
21 know, we came and met with the local
22 community and brought up several
23 different issues. One was the
24 existing site, the ADM facility now
25 and the amount of dust that comes

1 off the grain elevators. We're
2 looking to upgrade that system and
3 make it a more friendly system for
4 the community in the surrounding
5 areas.

6 We have the technology to do
7 that. We've met with the
8 engineering group and discussed our
9 plans on doing that. So that's one
10 thing we'd like to sit down and talk
11 about and maybe put those things in
12 writing and try to sufficiently, you
13 know, make that a better process.

14 That particular facility is a
15 permitted facility right now. The
16 existing ADM facility that we'll be
17 using to bring in the corn. It
18 would be a corn-based ethanol
19 facility, as we would primarily use

20 corn. We would like to work with
21 the local farmers to try to buy
22 local corn and help the farmers here
23 locally.

24 I believe we also - a couple of
25 other issues that were brought up,

1 of course, was the rail, the rail
2 system coming in and out of the
3 plant and we've looked at that
4 particular rail and we feel that we
5 can work around that and work with
6 the folks on that also.

7 We've also looked at the area
8 that we were looking to build the
9 plant and got with the engineering
10 group and proposed that we put
11 facilities far up front and we could
12 to the rail and if we put a - some
13 type of zone between the back
14 portion of the property and the side
15 of the property. So we are willing
16 to look at possibly doing that and
17 maybe even donating the back portion
18 to the community or getting a long-
19 term lease or whatever we need to do

20 to insure a zone plan to the new

21 areas.

22 This facility is again a 110

23 million gallons. It is a minor

24 source as far as emissions. It's a

25 real friendly plant when it comes to

1 a - any type of facility,
2 industrial facility. One of the
3 things we want to go ahead and go on
4 Record with is that we have heard
5 from the community that we wanted a
6 person from the engineering group
7 down here and make them feel better
8 about the process itself.

9 So we would like to go ahead and
10 say we're going to do that on
11 February 12th. We'll have somebody
12 with the Bergie Group who's the
13 engineering group that actually
14 helped design our facility to come
15 down and answer any technical
16 questions. One reason that we have
17 not done that to this point is
18 because of things that we had and
19 had questions that came in and we

20 knew that we were going to have a
21 public hearing, so we wanted to go
22 ahead get all those questions too,
23 so we could get the engineering
24 group down here and answer all
25 questions at one time.

1 The investor of Tiger State
2 Ethanol has also said he would
3 attend that meeting on February 12th
4 to discuss anything beyond the
5 technical aspects, such as finances
6 and things of that nature. The
7 local impact on the community.

8 I guess what makes this a really
9 attractive site for Tiger State just
10 to let everyone know because of the
11 existing infrastructure that was in
12 place at that particular facility
13 with the dock and the rails and the
14 existing silos that were there. So
15 that's one of the reasons why we've
16 picked this particular site and
17 would like to move forward in the
18 process.

19 So with that really, you know, I

20 think the meeting tonight is for the
21 public to be heard and for us to
22 give them time because we've got
23 quite a few people here. So we'll
24 keep our, you know, our comments
25 short today and let them go ahead

1 and talk with DEQ and express their
2 concerns.

3 And once we get our hands on
4 those questions that come out, we'll
5 respond very quickly and we'll
6 answer every question that needs to
7 be answered to try to expedite this
8 and move forward as fast as we can
9 to make everyone feel good about
10 this process that we're trying to
11 put in.

12 So with that, it's all I have to
13 say. I'll turn it over to the next
14 section or the next portion of the
15 meeting. I appreciate your time
16 here. Thank you.

17 MS. WRIGHT:

18 Thank you. At this time we're
19 going to allow our public officials

20 to speak first. And thereafter, we
21 will begin with those persons who
22 live with the two-mile radius.

23 Before I call the first name
24 though, I would like to let
25 everybody know that each speaker

1 tonight will be given five minutes
2 to speak. I will give you a one-
3 minute warning. After five minutes
4 I will cut you off. If you have not
5 finished your presentation, after
6 everyone has had a chance to speak
7 you will be allowed to finish if you
8 would like to.

9 With that I'm going to give our
10 first public official, Parish
11 President, Dale J. Hymel, Jr. And
12 please excuse me if I pronounce
13 something incorrect. Hymel. I'm
14 sorry. See.

15 MR. HYMEL:

16 You did mispronounce it, but
17 evidently you never ate at Hymel's
18 Restaurant. We forgive you.

19 But first let me preface my

20 comments by saying St. James Parish
21 is pro-business and industry and we
22 have always been receptive and
23 always welcomed new industries to
24 our parish. However, tonight I'm
25 going on the Record opposing Tiger

1 State Ethanol.

2 I feel the vested group or the
3 owners of Tiger State Ethanol have
4 not exhibited to me or this council
5 a willingness to cooperate or have
6 the sense of communication that have
7 given me an indication of trying to
8 give me communication, trying to
9 hide things or keep things secret.

10 In other words, it's a matter of
11 trust. And I do not believe that
12 they'll do what they say they're
13 doing. I have not met with anybody
14 since the last public hearing that
15 we had, DEQ had in this room for
16 Tiger State Ethanol at another
17 facility at another site, it's just
18 their proposed site. The only
19 people I've ever met with since then

20 is the two representatives of Excel
21 Corporation, Mr. Trevor Thompson and
22 Joe Wiley, and with all due respect
23 to them, I appreciate the
24 relationship I have with them and
25 keeping me informed because that's

1 the only communication I have with
2 Tiger State Ethanol is through these
3 two gentleman.

4 There's three or four other
5 gentleman you addressed earlier of
6 applicants addressed in Louisiana
7 and since they've decided to
8 relocate this facility at St. Elmo,
9 I have not spoken to anyone in the
10 investment group or the owners. And
11 if this plant is built or when it's
12 built or whatever, but these two
13 gentleman is going to move on. So
14 you know, who's going to be here to
15 have that relationship with the
16 parish, or the president, or the
17 governor?

18 So that's my concern is that
19 it's a matter of the public trust

20 and line of communication and
21 everything that we can develop in a
22 relationship with their business.
23 We've had - in the past we've
24 had two industries that were built
25 and then shut down. And so, you

1 know, I question the possibility of
2 this project. Yeah, at one time
3 ethanol plants were merely a thing
4 of the future, but you know, now
5 with everything I read and research
6 I've done on the high cost of corn,
7 you know, fertilizing corn, and
8 growing corn, that that cost has
9 escalated, you know, and also the
10 price of ethanol is going down. So
11 that profit margin ain't what it
12 used to be, it's not what it was.

13 So you know, I've been through
14 two, like I said, two industrial
15 closes and layoff's, dismantling the
16 plants and shipping them overseas
17 and that's nothing nice to go
18 through. So tonight, you know, I'm
19 on the Record asking DEQ not to

20 issue any permits to Tiger State

21 Ethanol and I'm going to close with

22 that. Thank you.

23 MS. WRIGHT:

24 Next we have Ralph A. Patton,

25 Jr. Did I get that right? I'm from

1 North Louisiana.

2 MR. PATTON:

3 Thank you, ma'am. Okay.

4 Tonight my name is Ralph Patton.

5 9224 Louisiana Highway 44, Convent

6 Louisiana, 70723. I am a member of

7 the St. James Parish Council and I

8 represent a district in which St.

9 Elmo is located.

10 First of all, the St. Elmo

11 district formerly Peavey and ADM is

12 a very densely populated area. This

13 facility will impact two distinct

14 cultural communities, including

15 three African American churches.

16 They are so close together if you

17 stand on the levee at the end of

18 642, you'd see all three of them at

19 the same time. They are that close

20 together. Three African American
21 churches, okay?
22 They have numerous family
23 subdivisions that have been in the
24 family for years. And there is a
25 recreation park. It's so close that

1 the shadow from the silos almost
2 covers or reaches the recreation
3 park. It is that close. There are
4 subdivisions that are presently in
5 the developing stages.

6 Next I have the concerns of the
7 people I represent. They're located
8 in my district. And it's my
9 responsibility to represent my
10 people the best I can.

11 Number one, one concern is the
12 decrease in the value of existing
13 and future homes. Two, the increase
14 in the traffic on substandard roads.
15 Our roads are sub - presently
16 substandard and could not, you know,
17 support the volumes of traffic that
18 this would create. Thirdly,
19 increased rail traffic. Presently

20 we have a problem in railroad
21 crossings in 642. This would
22 increase that problem.
23 Another concern is odor. An
24 anticipated foul odor according to
25 the groups of research. An eye

1 sore. When you walk out of your
2 house, guess what? Tiger Ethanol
3 and the silos will be seen. And
4 lastly, hazardous materials that
5 will be stored on this site. That's
6 all I have. Thank you.

7 MS. WRIGHT:

8 Next we have Wilson F.
9 Malbrough.

10 MR. MALBROUGH:

11 I thought it would come out
12 Wilson Malbrough. That's pretty
13 good. Hi, I'm Wilson Malbrough,
14 resident of District 3 also a
15 councilman from District 3
16 representative to that area. My
17 address is 3612 Kentwood Drive,
18 Paulina, Louisiana 70763.

19 I want to state again just

20 briefly what President Hymel had
21 said about supporting economic
22 development. I think we have
23 recovered a lot with the way that
24 just everything in the economy in
25 the country has gone. St. James

1 Parish wants the industry. We want
2 to try to find as many jobs as we
3 can for our constituents and our
4 residents, but of course, we want to
5 do it environmentally safe at the
6 same time.

7 As a resident of the immediate
8 area of the location of Tiger State
9 Ethanol Plant and being an elected
10 official which represents the people
11 in that immediate area, that's why
12 I'm expressing my concerns tonight.
13 I feel that we've been somewhat
14 taken advantage of. But when such
15 proposed companies come in in areas
16 where it's totally visible their
17 intentions to build an Ethanol plant
18 within hundreds of feet of many
19 residents, of a recreational park

20 where families enjoy quality time,
21 seniors enjoy senior Olympics.
22 Hundreds of people from a gated
23 subdivision. The first gated
24 subdivision that St. James Parish
25 has seen.

1 The districts that combine
2 Districts 3 and 4 is the fastest
3 growing residential district in St.
4 James Parish. In this site that has
5 been chosen by Tiger State Ethanol
6 will effect the growth of this
7 community.

8 When we asked the
9 representatives of Tiger State
10 Ethanol if they had even ridden
11 through the area, they openly had
12 admitted at that first meeting
13 before actually walking the site,
14 that they had not. Did they not
15 realize the many inconveniences that
16 could be set upon the nearby
17 community. Practically in the same
18 sentence they stated that even
19 though they had every right to

20 locate at the site.

21 We had two public meetings with

22 some residents - Tiger State

23 representatives, which is Mr. Wiley

24 and Mr. Trevor, and I have to say

25 what Mr. Hymel said is that they

1 presented themselves I think within
2 the boundaries that they were
3 probably given because on both
4 occasions they had committed to
5 bringing in engineers to answer
6 technical questions. And to this
7 day we still awaiting that. We
8 don't know what their intentions
9 are. Because they've never laid
10 everything on the table.

11 The second meeting was scheduled
12 just for that with an email
13 personally that I received saying
14 that engineers were going to be
15 present. They were coming from
16 Memphis. When the meeting took
17 place right here in this room, no
18 engineers were there.

19 When I challenged this site, it

20 is not a question and answer session
21 just like tonight. It's only the
22 answers that we were looking for.
23 But we were not given them. It does
24 bring a distrust. If this takes
25 place with this permit tonight, I

1 think the new logo might be come in
2 and enjoy Tiger State Ethanol's park
3 facility in District 3 because I
4 don't think any of the residents are
5 going to do that because of the
6 odors, the dust, the noise. The
7 only highway that runs through which
8 is going to be a two-lane highway,
9 substandard.

10 The only major drainage that
11 runs through this property, which
12 would no doubt take their storm
13 water runoff with contaminates, the
14 same ditch their children play in,
15 the same ditch that runs right
16 through subdivisions.

17 Even LDEQ, I had asked my
18 secretary to contact your guys and
19 have a meeting with St. James Parish

20 representatives to tour this site,
21 so that you can have a better
22 picture. We were declined. On
23 behalf of the residents of St. James
24 Parish and the State of Louisiana we
25 wish that you guys would have

1 participated with that.

2 Jobs are very important,
3 lifestyles and life itself is more
4 important and we wish it coexists in
5 an economic future. All things must
6 be considered, jobs, people,
7 industry location, emissions,
8 working with our state agencies,
9 which are the primary reasons you
10 guys are here tonight. To protect
11 our environment and our people.

12 The very job you hold was
13 developed because we need it to
14 protect the people. So I stand here
15 tonight and I ask you, I challenge
16 you, on behalf of President Hymel
17 and St. James Parish Council do not
18 issue this permit for this site to
19 Tiger State Ethanol.

20 MS. WRIGHT:

21 Next we have Senator Jody

22 Amedee. I got that one right.

23 MR. AMEDEE:

24 Thank you, ma'am, and I'm not

25 going to talk too long, but I'd like

1 - I also rise in opposition to this
2 process that we're going through for
3 a number of reasons. I'm going to
4 touch on what Mr. Hymel said a
5 minute ago. Mr. Wiley who is I
6 guess a lifelong friend, I've been
7 knowing him since I was, I don't
8 know how old. He's a good guy.
9 Hard working, honest man. He's not
10 the problem. Mr. Trevor Thompson is
11 not the problem.

12 The problem is that people that
13 are building this facility, I and
14 everybody in this community want to
15 see the whites of their eyes. Not
16 the people that they hired, that
17 come in here and talk this stuff.

18 I understand in the business
19 world when you're building big,

20 million dollar businesses and even
21 governments that hire consultants
22 and they get hired and they get paid
23 well to go out and do public
24 relations. This is not a Wal-Mart,
25 this is not a drug store, this is a

1 chemical plant and the people who
2 will be making the money and ruining
3 these people's community need to
4 answer for it. And that's the
5 problem I have right now and I think
6 if they would do that, you might not
7 have 400 people here. And I'm not
8 saying that they'll never be good,
9 I'm not saying we'll never be wrong,
10 but they are going to have to
11 understand that they got to answer
12 to these people.

13 And I am begging DEQ, I'm
14 begging you, the governor, whoever,
15 please don't issue this permit until
16 these people are held accountable
17 and held to answer the questions.

18 And I go - I went to the
19 meeting last Tuesday with about 100

20 people and I got there and I got
21 somebody's name, I'm going through
22 my stuff, but that's all right. I
23 got back and I said - I asked Stacy
24 to call DEQ and get me a copy of
25 everything and I said I'll go over

1 there and get it. Just tell them
2 get it ready and I'll pay for the
3 copies. So they gave me this stack
4 of stuff and it's 3 inches thick.

5 So I started reading through
6 this. And I'm a lawyer. I'm not a
7 chemist, and I can tell you right
8 now, you can't make crap out of none
9 of this. I can't. So this is all
10 these people got and I don't know if
11 they got all this, but I just got
12 it. But there's no way in the world
13 that a normal human being that does
14 not have some kind of scientist or
15 chemist degree can understand any of
16 this.

17 The only thing that I could
18 understand is what it smells like
19 and that's all - I can't -

20 everything's abbreviated in here.

21 So they have a right to know and I

22 think these people need to be held

23 accountable and need to be forced by

24 DEQ and I know that there's no

25 provision in the laws because I

1 looked it up that you could make a
2 company do this, but there's one
3 thing you can do and that's hold up
4 the permit until they do what these
5 people want them to do and at least
6 answer their questions.

7 Now, the other issue I've got is
8 - and maybe if they answered a lot
9 of these questions, I wouldn't be
10 here. Maybe a lot of this can be
11 resolved. But nobody knows if
12 they're going to be, you know,
13 trucking this stuff in here, hauling
14 it in on rail, hauling it in on
15 barges. Are they going to be
16 hauling gasoline? Because you know
17 it only takes a little bit gasoline,
18 and I know it's like 2 or 3 or 5
19 percent. But there will be all

20 these tanker trucks going down into

21 the community.

22 So that might be something that,

23 you know, I don't know, that nobody

24 knows. So we need to find that out,

25 a lot of information that I believe

1 somebody should come and answer.

2 And so that's all I'm asking at
3 this point is that DEQ hold these
4 people accountable. Excel Group is
5 not who the people want to talk to.
6 They want to talk to the people that
7 own it and the people out of
8 Memphis, Tennessee who are designing
9 it who can answer some technical
10 questions. How much stuff is going
11 to be going down the road with.

12 If you go through this community
13 - I wish that - I mean the houses
14 are right by the road. Some of
15 them. And I don't believe that
16 chemicals ought to be going down
17 that road.

18 Maybe if DEQ can start by saying
19 - I'm going to ask for 30 more

20 seconds. Maybe they can start by
21 saying no trucks on that road. If
22 in the long run they going to do a
23 permit like people say they're going
24 to do, then maybe put some
25 provisions to make these people

1 sleep better at night and maybe the
2 kids can run out in the yard and
3 play and everything else. So thank
4 you for your time. And I appreciate
5 it.

6 MS. WRIGHT:

7 Next we have Carol Lambert.
8 From the District 3 school board.

9 MS. LAMBERT:

10 My name is Carol Lambert. I
11 reside at 3564 Geismar Street,
12 Paulina, Louisiana. I live within
13 less than a two-mile radius of this
14 proposed ethanol plant. I am in
15 opposition of this facility, not
16 only for wrecking this whole
17 community, but also the young
18 children of our community.

19 The map dated January the 25,

20 2008 is lacking two very important
21 colors. There's two purple squares.
22 We have two schools within less than
23 a mile from this facility. And in
24 addition to the schools and the
25 three African American churches, we

1 have in that community we also have
2 our Catholic Church, which is also
3 less than two miles from this
4 facility.

5 This community has been
6 improving the last few years. Like
7 we said we had a real gated
8 community come into our community.
9 District 3 is flourishing. The
10 people want to move here. They
11 moved here because they had a
12 positive thing happening. And a lot
13 of it had to do with the community,
14 the family environment, the good
15 schools and our good churches.

16 And tonight I stand here and I
17 ask that you all and the DEQ not to,
18 you know, accept this proposal of
19 this permit and let our children,

20 our futures of our district, live a
21 happy, safe and healthy life. Thank
22 you.

23 MS. WRIGHT:

24 Next we have state
25 representative Nicky Monica.

1 MR. MONICA:

2 Ms. Wright, you got it right.

3 Well, thank you for the opportunity

4 to be before you tonight. I am

5 State Representative, Nicky Monica

6 and I reside at 298 Durel Lane,

7 LaPlace, Louisiana. I'll read my

8 statement and I will put it in for

9 the Record.

10 As a Louisiana State

11 Representative I have many

12 responsibilities and duties. Two of

13 those are to create jobs and expand

14 the tax rates in St. John and St.

15 James Parishes. Another is to

16 promote the safety, health and

17 welfare of my constituents. That is

18 why I am strongly opposed to the

19 Tiger Ethanol Plant at the Peavey

20 Grain Elevator site in Paulina,

21 Louisiana.

22 However, I am going to find

23 state funds and also trust funds to

24 a financial location at the current

25 permitted site in Convent,

1 Louisiana.

2 Tonight I have two requests.

3 That DEQ deny this permit and that

4 Tiger Ethanol resend their request

5 for this permit and to contact my

6 office and I will work with them

7 with the Port of South Louisiana,

8 with the Parish President and the

9 parish council to find the funds to

10 build the infrastructure they need

11 for the permitted site in Convent,

12 Louisiana. Thank you very much.

13 MS. WRIGHT:

14 We will now begin with those

15 speakers who live within a two-mile

16 radius of the facility. Our first

17 speaker is Denis Roper.

18 Just one second. Before Mr.

19 Roper we have one more official,

20 elected official. Mr. Jason Amatto

21 from District 2.

22 MR. AMATTO:

23 Thank you. Good evening. And

24 thank you for coming to Convent

25 tonight to hear our comments and

1 concerns. My name is Jason Amatto
2 and I'm St. James Parish Council for
3 District 2 and I'm also the Fire
4 Chief at Lutchter Volunteer Fire
5 Department. We're the first to find
6 employment for mutual aid for
7 Paulina, Grand Point, Belmont Fire
8 Departments. I live at 1168
9 Marquette Drive in beautiful,
10 downtown Lutchter.

11 Let me make it perfectly clear,
12 I am opposed to Tiger State Ethanol
13 located in St. James Parish. And
14 here's my case for the Records. In
15 my spare time for my 21 years I'm
16 employed with a chemical plant up
17 the River. And I hold a position of
18 operation specialist. I'm also a
19 member of the emergency crew and the

20 hazmat response team. And my
21 facility been in business for over
22 40 years. Our processor has been in
23 existence for over 80 years
24 worldwide. With all this experience
25 and knowledge you have to wonder why

1 we have a need for an emergency
2 crew, a hazmat response team, an
3 environmental department and
4 maintenance department.

5 We have our permits from the
6 LDEQ and we promise to meet those
7 standards, just like Tiger State
8 Ethanol. And the reality is pumps
9 fail, power dips, tanks overflow,
10 rail barges leak.

11 Now we have Tiger State Ethanol
12 wanting to locate in our community.
13 They're requesting a proposed minor
14 source synthetic air permit using
15 estimated emissions for the proposed
16 facility. As a ground water
17 certification has been completed
18 with appropriate mitigation an
19 operational safeguard will be

20 installed. What type of emissions
21 control equipment will they have?
22 Many questions, very few answers.
23 The state has identified the
24 level of pre-approved certifications
25 in St. James Parish to be sufficient

1 to attain the natural ambient air
2 quality standard using the 2,000 to
3 attain an inventory to establish an
4 emission projections for this year
5 2008, 2011, 2014 to demonstrated
6 maintenance.

7 The parish emission goal
8 projection for a VOC and not for
9 2014 for St. James Parish reflected
10 a significant increase. However,
11 are we going to revalidate the level
12 of emissions since five years have
13 passed?

14 With the questions surrounding
15 all ethanol facilities, are we
16 confident that Tiger State Ethanol
17 will not exceed our permit
18 emissions, thus jeopardizing our air
19 quality standards for St. James

20 Parish?

21 Other ethanol sites are in

22 litigation now because of flaws to

23 their design performance. Will

24 Tiger State Ethanol, regardless of

25 the location in St. James Parish,

1 throw us into the Baton Rouge five-
2 parish area that's more than a
3 eight-hour ozone non-retainment
4 area?

5 If so, what would this do for
6 our mess of companies already in the
7 parish? The Motivias, the Chevron
8 Phillips and others who have been
9 good names of the community, pay
10 their taxes through the years and
11 now explore the possibility of
12 expansion.

13 If you want the business in St.
14 James Parish, you're more than
15 welcome. However, you're going to
16 operate in good faith and follow the
17 rules. The same rules Motiva
18 follows, Mosaic follows, Chevron
19 Phillips follows, Grains America

20 follows, and Gramercy Alumina
21 follows. As a councilman for this
22 parish I'm not asking for anything
23 more. But I would not accept
24 anything less.
25 Serve the end you will find a

1 tremendous amount of information
2 related to opponents organized
3 against Ethanol plants. Fear in air
4 pollution, increase trucking
5 traffic, ground water contamination,
6 lack of community support, pressed
7 in the quality of life.

8 In Illinois a citizen's group
9 even filed a federal lawsuit to
10 block further construction of an
11 ethanol plant.

12 In two weeks our governor, our
13 senator, Mr. Joey Amedee, our state
14 rep. Nicky Monica will meet in Baton
15 Rouge for a special session on
16 ethics. When most people think
17 about ethics, they think about free
18 lunch and rounds of golf. Ethics is
19 more than that. Ethics is a moral

20 obligation our government has to do
21 right. Senator Amedee's government,
22 President Hymel's government, I am
23 government, Ms. Wright's government,
24 our Louisiana Department of
25 Environmental Quality's government.

1 Ethics is about doing right when
2 it comes to meals, doing right when
3 it comes to campaign finance laws,
4 doing right when it comes to issuing
5 environmental permits the companies
6 wanting to operate in St. James
7 Parish.

8 Ladies and gentleman of the LDEQ
9 you are charged with this basic
10 principle. You don't make decisions
11 because they're easy and don't make
12 decisions because they're cheap.
13 You don't make decisions because
14 they're popular, you make decisions
15 because they're right. Thank you.

16 MS. WRIGHT:

17 Before Mr. Roper speaks I need
18 to announce for the Record that
19 State Representative, Nicky Monica

20 submitted his written comments and I
21 have marked it as Exhibit 1. It
22 will be attached to the Record of
23 this proceedings.

24 MR. ROPER:

25 Ma'am, I would like to show

1 people here where I live at in the
2 picture here. How close I live to
3 this site (indicating). Ma'am, I
4 would like to present this to you
5 (handing).

6 MS. WRIGHT:

7 Sir, you still need to state
8 your name and your address for the
9 Record.

10 MR. ROPER:

11 My name is Denis Roper. My
12 address is 3426 Stella Road,
13 Paulina, Louisiana. I live 300 to
14 400 yards from the proposed site of
15 Tiger State Ethanol. My family and
16 I, my community, and the parish of
17 St. James government officials are
18 opposed to the process of this Tiger
19 State Ethanol.

20 Myself and others are not
21 against industry to further economic
22 development of the parish, but
23 however, we do want a good quality
24 of life in our homes and in our
25 communities.

1 If this process will take place
2 it will degrade the living
3 conditions for my family. Many of
4 the carcinogens and other air
5 pollutants through the emissions
6 would degrade our health
7 tremendously.

8 Tiger State Ethanol has proposed
9 their calculations of emissions in
10 tons per year. And I feel they are
11 not honest with us, with me and my
12 family. And I'd like to present
13 this, this is also for you
14 (handling). This is data from a
15 climatic study in our area on the
16 wind directions. As you can see
17 stated there that the wind
18 directions are from south to south
19 east, and I'm going to continue my

20 reading. My family and I will be
21 breathing the tons of emissions that
22 are released because of the wind
23 directions from the plant site.
24 And also, ma'am, I'd like to
25 present you another data (handing).

1 This is the data from the Louisiana
2 Department of Transportation. These
3 are traffic counts and this shows an
4 increase in each year. And this
5 increase is due because of people
6 that want to move into our community
7 and live here. The quality of life
8 in our community has attracted
9 others to build and live here. I
10 feel that if this process will take
11 place, it will disrupt this quality
12 greatly.

13 We have two wonderful schools in
14 our area and a daycare center,
15 public parks, churches within two
16 miles. I fear this would be
17 disrupted. Department of DEQ,
18 please hear my, my family's, our
19 plea not to allow this plant to

20 build in our community. Thank you.

21 MS. WRIGHT:

22 Please let the Record reflect

23 that Mr. Roper submitted

24 photographs, climatic data and

25 traffic data, which I have marked

1 all three as Exhibit 2 will be
2 attached to the Record. Next we
3 have Susan Roper.

4 MS. ROPER:

5 My name is Susan Roper. I live
6 at 3426 Stella Road in Paulina. 300
7 to 400 hundred yards away from the
8 proposed site and I'm definitely,
9 definitely in opposition to it. I
10 have worked for a local pediatrician
11 for 19 years. On February the 20th
12 I'll make my 19th year. We have so
13 many asthma patients already who
14 have such a hard time.

15 In the State of Louisiana at
16 this point in time is conducting a
17 study right now. We've even been
18 issued lists of patient names in the
19 area, and I can't give you those

20 names due to HIPAA, but I can tell
21 you there's a lot of them. We have
22 a lot of children in our area who
23 already suffer, but what would
24 happen if we allowed them to be
25 subjected to carcinogens in the

1 emissions from a place like this in
2 a residential area that is just so
3 densely populated? It's not a good
4 thing I don't believe.

5 Not only do we have a lot of
6 asthma children in our area we have
7 a lot of adults who have breathing
8 problems. They have lung cancer,
9 they have COPD, and what would we be
10 doing to them? It's a very hard
11 thing.

12 Not only that, what are we doing
13 to our healthy children? My husband
14 and I have six grandchildren.

15 They're very healthy and I thank God
16 today and I pray that we can keep
17 them healthy. And we'd like to ask
18 the DEQ to help us to do that.

19 Thank you-all.

20 MR. WRIGHT:

21 Next we have Kathleen Donaldson.

22 MS. DONALDSON:

23 Hi. My name is Kathleen Roper

24 Donaldson. I live at 3425 Stella

25 Road and I'm approximately 300 to

1 400 yards away from the proposed
2 site. I'm totally against this for
3 many reasons. I'm one of 14
4 children of Stella Bourgeois Roper.
5 She has inherited this land that
6 we're living on today from her
7 parents, her grandparents and it's a
8 shame to say that with this plant
9 coming into our area our quality of
10 life will be ruined.

11 We'll not be able to pass this
12 land on to future generations. I
13 beg you, please, please do not let
14 this plant come in our community.
15 Thank you and God bless you.

16 MS. WRIGHT:

17 Next David Donaldson.

18 MR. DONALDSON:

19 My name is David Donaldson. I

20 live at 3425 Stella Road, Paulina,
21 Louisiana near the site. I have a
22 prepared statement I'd like to read
23 and present it to you.
24 I'm against this plant for
25 several reasons. The number one

1 reason is that, as my wife stated,
2 Kathleen, we're going to live, if
3 this comes through, in the shadow of
4 this place. It would literally be
5 in our backyards. Would any of you,
6 would anyone like this, would you,
7 Mr. Wiley, like this in your back
8 yard? I would ask the same question
9 to these investors if we'd ever meet
10 them.

11 There's no buffer zone at all
12 between our house and other people's
13 houses for smells, sounds, spills,
14 releases, explosions. I ask you not
15 to issue this permit not only for
16 myself, but for the thousands who
17 will be effected. Some we don't
18 even know, maybe many don't even
19 realize the effect.

20 Tiger State Ethanol already has
21 a permit to build and operate in St.
22 James Parish. A site removed from
23 people, a site where there is no
24 public opposition. The only
25 argument I've heard for building at

1 the old Peavey Grain Elevator site
2 is so the investors can save \$65
3 million dollars. Investors.
4 What is an investor? When I
5 think of an investor, I think Donald
6 Trump. A greedy person who will do
7 anything to anybody to make a buck.
8 With all due respect, ma'am, you
9 work for the Department of
10 Environmental Quality not the
11 Department of Economic Development.
12 Please, please do not let outsiders
13 destroy our community.
14 Ethanol from corn in this
15 country is already causing hundreds
16 of thousands of square miles, I
17 didn't say acres, square miles in
18 forests to be cut just to grow corn.
19 All of the agricultural run over,

20 fertilizers, pesticides, will run
21 right past us down this river and
22 surely as I'm standing here will end
23 up contributing to the growing of
24 the dead zone in the gulf that we
25 experience every year.

1 Ethanol policies nationwide hide
2 the price of our food to the price
3 of oil. Has anyone bought meat or
4 poultry or dairy products lately? I
5 mean for heaven's sakes we're
6 burning food. Burning food for -
7 or burning corn or food for fuel as
8 a political solution to our energy
9 problem. It's like giving a crash
10 helmet to someone who's going to
11 jump off the Empire State Building.
12 It won't do that person any good,
13 but at least you can say, "Well, we
14 done something."

15 What is happening is that this
16 is a huge transfer of wealth from
17 each and every one of us to those
18 few, those very few who grow corn or
19 produce ethanol. So on behalf of my

20 friends, my family, the community
21 and this exosphere we call earth, I
22 ask you not to issue yet another
23 permit for an ethanol plant. And I
24 thank you.
25 MS. WRIGHT:

1 Let's let the Record reflect
2 that Mr. Donaldson submitted written
3 comments, which I have marked as
4 Exhibit Number 3. And it will
5 become part of the Record. Before I
6 call our next speaker I'd like to
7 make a brief announcement. Could
8 the - we will call the next speaker
9 and the following speaker and so
10 that the next person can already be
11 on their way up to the front and it
12 could save a little time here.

13 Our next speaker will be Seth
14 Bourgeois. And after Mr. Bourgeois
15 we will have Wade Waguespack. Mr.
16 Waguespack, please make your way to
17 the front.

18 MR. BOURGEOIS:

19 Thank you. First of all, I want

20 to say that I'm always proud to say
21 that I'm from St. James Parish, but
22 tonight I'm doubly proud to be from
23 St. James Parish. Thank you all for
24 coming. My name is Seth Bourgeois
25 and I live at 3354 Highway 642 in

1 Paulina. Myself and my wife,
2 Sherry, and my three kids live in
3 the shadows of the silos of the
4 proposed Tiger State Ethanol site.
5 Approximately 400 miles north
6 northwest of the facility -
7 proposed facility.

8 Thank you for allowing me to
9 speak to you today and to voice my
10 dissatisfaction with the company who
11 first came to our parish a couple of
12 years ago and acted as though they
13 were going to be a good neighbor to
14 all of us. This was the first of
15 their deceptions and not the last.

16 We as a parish community
17 listened back then to what they had
18 to say, saw their plans and agreed
19 with them that the location in

20 Convent was an ideal fit for their
21 facility. Permits were issued and
22 all sides were happy. Fast forward
23 to December of 2007 when our parish
24 president accidentally found out
25 that Tiger State Ethanol had applied

1 for permits to open the facility in
2 question this evening. Essentially,
3 trying to slip by into the radar
4 knowing the adverse effects it could
5 have on our community and the outcry
6 that could create.

7 I speak for 99 percent of our
8 local community living in the
9 shadows of these silos, all of our
10 parish government officials who, as
11 you know, passed a resolution in
12 opposition to this location, our
13 state representatives, our senator
14 and our congressman, when I say St.
15 James Parish wants your business,
16 but we don't want it in Paulina.

17 The area where Tiger State wants
18 to locate is the fastest growing
19 residential in our parish. Within 1

20 mile of the proposed plant is a
21 development called Belle Vue
22 Estates. This development holds
23 homes valued between \$250,000 and a
24 million dollars. This is a
25 development of good neighbors.

1 Also within a mile or two our
2 parish's premiere elementary
3 schools, St. Peter Chanel Catholic
4 Elementary and the best performing
5 public elementary school in our
6 system, Paulina Elementary. Within
7 one mile directly north and
8 northwest of this plant stands
9 approximately 350 to 400 single
10 family homes and two apartment
11 complexes.

12 If you know anything about south
13 Louisiana winds, you know that 70 to
14 80 percent of the time our winds
15 blow from the south and with the
16 help of the Mississippi River and
17 it's advantage just down river from
18 the plant site, these winds would
19 carry with them the majority of the

20 toxic emissions named in their
21 permit application and help them
22 directly north and northwest onto
23 the largest concentration of homes
24 in our area.
25 I'd like to challenge Tiger

1 State Ethanol to produce models of
2 the wind flows of our area. Not
3 generally in south Louisiana because
4 I know that's easy to get to. But
5 specifically where they propose to
6 locate this facility.

7 The pollutants they propose to
8 emit would not scare me as much if
9 they were dispersed 360 degrees
10 around their site. However, they
11 won't be. They will be - However,
12 they won't be. They will be dropped
13 almost exclusively on the homes and
14 properties of myself and my good
15 neighbors.

16 The waste water runoff from the
17 site will be sent directly to the
18 main canal that runs right next to
19 the aforementioned homes and

20 eventually empties about a mile back
21 into protective wetlands. I again
22 ask Tiger State to show me something
23 otherwise. You won't because you
24 can't. We know where it's going and
25 I ask you, the DEQ, to please

1 consider this before you harm my
2 good neighbors, our property and our
3 wetlands.

4 Another point of contention is
5 infrastructure. Highway 642 which
6 is the main road used to get to and
7 from this site was not too long ago
8 found unsuitable for truck traffic.
9 It has been constantly repaired over
10 the years, but flanked on both sides
11 like drainage ditches, the weight
12 and vibrations of truck traffic keep
13 causing it to sink on either side
14 into the ditches. It's just not
15 made for the heavy use that this
16 facility would bring. And
17 ultimately we'll see death and
18 destruction when a truck flips from
19 this road onto somebody's yard.

20 The present dock and belt
21 systems are - and are the focal
22 point of a class action lawsuit
23 filed against the former owners of
24 the facility by local residents.
25 This suit is pending as we speak.

1 Please don't let them dust us out
2 again. We've had enough. I could
3 go on and on and on, but I'm sure my
4 good neighbors will take care of
5 that.

6 In closing, I just want to say
7 that I'm about the farthest thing
8 from an environmental issue ever
9 seen, but this site is just flat
10 wrong. Tiger State is not looking
11 for the site with the least amount
12 of impact to the environment or
13 community, but strictly with the
14 least amount of impact on their
15 wallets. Please help us save our
16 way of life. Thank you.

17 MS. WRIGHT:

18 Next is Mr. Wade Waguespack
19 followed by Ms. Ruth Snyder.

20 MR. WAGUESPACK:

21 My name is Wade Waguespack, 3344

22 Highway 642. I am an adjacent

23 property owner to the facility's

24 back inland property. My property

25 is within 1,500 feet of the proposed

1 location. I also have a prepared
2 statement and a profile of my
3 property that I would like to
4 present to you after this.

5 First of all, I would like to
6 state that I attended the two
7 previous information sessions with
8 all those representatives on behalf
9 of Tiger State Ethanol. The first
10 meeting was a good faith attempt by
11 Tiger State Ethanol to discuss the
12 proposed Ethanol Plant in the St.
13 Elmo site in Paulina's good
14 community.

15 Good intentions provided
16 inadequate answered to most of our
17 technical questions about the
18 facility. At this point we were
19 promised a second meeting that would

20 provide us answers to our already
21 proposed questions and that Tiger
22 State Ethanol would bring other
23 personnel that could better answer
24 our technical questions and
25 concerns.

1 The second meeting produced the
2 same lack of results for our
3 community and made most of - most
4 in attendance even madder at the
5 good faith attitude of Tiger State
6 Ethanol. This lack of cooperation
7 on the part of Tiger State Ethanol
8 has left most of the citizens
9 feeling uneasy about Tiger State
10 Ethanol's future operations and
11 trustworthiness to our community.

12 I feel that Tiger State Ethanol
13 is getting by on a technicality by
14 saying that they will only operate
15 their facility for some 8,400 hours
16 per year of 350 days a year at this
17 site in order for them to remain a
18 synthetic minor source for criteria
19 pollutants. This point allows Tiger

20 State Ethanol the grace of not
21 having to comply with two of the
22 most important I feel of the DEQ's
23 air permitting process.
24 That being the IT decision
25 questionnaire and the RMP, Risk

1 Management Plan, which would have
2 forced Tiger State Ethanol to
3 address most of these technical,
4 environmental and safety concerns of
5 our community up front. Thus, some
6 of the questions would have been
7 answered. Well, I should say few of
8 them.

9 What are our potential health
10 and environmental impacts of this
11 facility to our neighboring - to
12 our nearby neighbors in the
13 community during periods of abnormal
14 and normal operations?

15 In closing I would like to state
16 that our government bodies have
17 created zero tolerance zones to help
18 protect our kids and communities,
19 residents from the likes of guns,

20 drugs and crimes.

21 I ask you, the DEQ, to act in a

22 similar fashion by not countering

23 the forward progress of this permit

24 application at the St. Elmo's site

25 due to the lack of a sufficient

1 buffer zone as Tiger State Ethanol
2 has been granted and accept the
3 nearby site within our parish with
4 adequate surroundings.

5 Tiger State states that the use
6 of the St. Elmo facility will save
7 them approximately \$40 to \$60
8 million dollars of infrastructure
9 cost. In truth, these same dollars
10 will be going towards the initial
11 added costs of purchasing this
12 property with an existing grain
13 elevator on site versus the already
14 approved land owning site.

15 Thus, this measure will only
16 serve to expedite their process even
17 further along with an expedited
18 permit request for purchasing a 30
19 plus year old facility that is in

20 need of repairs and that currently
21 has pending lawsuits against it for
22 poor operation and conditions of the
23 past.

24 Thanks for considering my formal
25 opposition to the proposed permit

1 for Tiger State Ethanol to build and
2 operate an ethylene plant at the St.
3 Elmo's site on behalf of myself, my
4 three children, my wife, my
5 neighbors and surrounding community
6 and residents.

7 MS. WRIGHT:

8 Please let the Record reflect
9 that Mr. Waguespack has submitted
10 photos and written comments, which I
11 will mark as Exhibit Number 4 and it
12 will become part when we attach them
13 to the Record.

14 Next we have Ms. Ruth Snyder
15 followed by Ms. Betty Pollet.

16 MS. SNYDER:

17 Hi, my name is Ruth Snyder. I
18 live at 3436 Snyder Road in Paulina,
19 Louisiana. I also have a prepared

20 statement and some photographs that

21 I'd like to have introduced into the

22 Record.

23 I'm sure you've all heard the

24 expression "It's not personal, it's

25 business." It's not personal, it's

1 business. Well, in this case, it is
2 personal. It's our personal health,
3 well being and quality of life that
4 are being taken for granted.

5 Tiger State Ethanol is
6 attempting to obtain a Minor Source
7 Air Operating Permit to construct
8 and operate 110 million gallon per
9 year fuel grade ethanol facility
10 located at 3338 Highway 44 in
11 Paulina in St. James Parish.

12 According to their application for a
13 permit they plan to operate the
14 plant 8,400 hour per year, which
15 equals to about 350 days out of 365.

16 This will allow them to obtain
17 emission estimates that fall below
18 the threshold limits and allow them
19 to qualify to obtain a permit under

20 a minor source application thereby
21 avoiding a number of permitting
22 processes, reviews, analysis and
23 monitoring requirements.

24 They also state that carbon
25 dioxide plans to be located on that

1 same property adjacent to the Tiger
2 State Ethanol facility and will also
3 be permitted as a minor source
4 built, owned and operated by a third
5 party. The permitting of both
6 facilities on the same property, but
7 under separate names will allow them
8 both to obtain minor source permits,
9 which does not sit well with me.

10 Will we still be subjected to these
11 minor source emissions on a 24 hour,
12 seven day, 365 a day a year basis?

13 Can Tiger State Ethanol guarantee to
14 me and neighboring communities, that
15 even though the plant is not
16 running, nothing will be released
17 into the air?

18 The EPA designates an area as
19 non-attainment if it is violated or

20 is contributed to violations of the
21 National Ambient Air Quality
22 standards. They warrant six
23 criteria pollutants, which includes
24 ground-level ozone. The only
25 pollutant for which attainment has

1 not been achieved in the State of

2 Louisiana is ozone.

3 In addition, the only designated
4 non-attainment areas in Louisiana
5 are the five parishes surrounding
6 the Baton Rouge Metropolitan area,
7 Ascension Parish, East and West
8 Baton Rouge Parish, Iberville and
9 Livingston. It does not include St.
10 James Parish, which means that the
11 St. Elmo Ethanol facility is not
12 located in a non-attainment area.

13 Does that mean that we don't care
14 about the ozone? How does these
15 emissions effect our ozone?

16 According to the Act 2 permit
17 toxic air pollutant such as Benzene,
18 Toluene, Xylene will be emitted.
19 Benzene is known to be a human

20 carcinogen based on sufficient
21 evidence in humans. Case reports
22 and case series have reported
23 leukemia in individuals exposed to
24 Benzene. Breathing levels of
25 Toluene during pregnancy can result

1 in children with birth defects and
2 retarded mental abilities and
3 growth. Some studies suggest that
4 babies may even be more sensitive to
5 Toluene than adults.

6 This site is in close proximity
7 of elementary schools not to mention
8 daycare centers. I only touched on
9 two of the many VOC's, volatile
10 organic compounds, and the TAP's,
11 toxic air pollutants, that will be
12 emitted by this plant. Can you lay
13 your head on the pillow at night
14 knowing that you may have effected
15 the innocent lives of many children
16 just because you decided to give
17 Tiger State Ethanol a Minor Source
18 Air Operating Permit to build their
19 110 million gallon per fuel grade

20 ethanol facility?

21 Also, while going through the

22 permits I notice that a lot of them

23 it's out of date. It's like from

24 1985, 1995. I need to mention tat

25 you'd like to update their

1 requirements in relation to
2 regulations that have come in effect
3 for the ethanol plants. All the
4 ones I saw was out of date.

5 I live approximately one sixth
6 of a mile from this proposed site.
7 About 294 yards. This is our family
8 land that has been passed down
9 through generations. Like many
10 families and neighbors we gather the
11 street from time to time to see how
12 everyone is doing. We enjoy family
13 get togethers.

14 If Tiger State Ethanol was to
15 obtain this permit, I don't see this
16 happening for fear of what we would
17 be breathing when we do meet in the
18 street. Yeah, we can gather inside,
19 but then again, doesn't that change

20 our quality of life? Does that
21 change the fact that we can't enjoy
22 some of life's little pleasures? If
23 Tiger State is granted this permit,
24 this would more than likely change.
25 I still have a lot of unanswered

1 questions.

2 One question I do know the
3 answer to and that is do I want
4 Tiger State Ethanol to be issued
5 this permit? The answer is
6 definitely not.

7 Let me finish by saying that in
8 the Bible there is a scripture that
9 says, "You have not because you ask
10 not." Well, I'm asking LDEQ not to
11 grant Tiger State Ethanol this
12 permit. I invite you to come and
13 visit our community and meet the
14 people face to face in our
15 environment, the place we call home.

16 And also one thing, corn is not
17 locally grown, so you won't be
18 helping our farmers. We have sugar
19 cane farmers here. Thank you.

20 MS. WRIGHT:

21 Next is Ruth Snyder. I'm sorry.

22 Betty Pollet followed by Mary Ellen

23 Roper. And also I know some of you

24 all may be reading when I give my

25 one minute warning if you're looking

1 down and reading. I will just give
2 your one minute warning I will say
3 it. Just so you know. Go ahead.

4 MS. POLLET:

5 Hello. I am Betty Pollet. I
6 live at 3290 South Angelle Street in
7 Paulina. We do not want Tiger
8 Ethanol to locate their facility in
9 our backyards. We are asking you,
10 the people of the DEQ committee, to
11 not grant the permits to do so.

12 This Ethanol plant in Paulina
13 would give a significant increase in
14 truck traffic for Highway 642 and
15 River Road. Significant increase in
16 rail traffic and blockages of
17 Highway 642. Bringing us constant
18 pollution to our air, waste water
19 runoff into the main drainage canals

20 in the Paulina area, toxic emissions
21 into our air for many points through
22 our Paulina area. Highly flammable
23 gasoline stored in tanks on site to
24 complete the ethanol production
25 process.

1 Ethanol plant right next to our
2 playground, our daycare center, two
3 schools and many churches. We are
4 not against business or industry
5 located in our parish, we just do
6 not want this type of industry in
7 our backyards.

8 Madam Chairman, you see here
9 before you a lot of people from our
10 parish, from our community. They're
11 here by word of mouth, flyers,
12 emails and road signs placed
13 throughout our community.

14 I tried placing an article in
15 our local paper, The News Examiner,
16 to appear in the January 24th
17 edition. I talked to the editor
18 about this article. He told me he
19 was going to run a front page story

20 about this meeting so that we could
21 notify the people of the community
22 of this public hearing.

23 Well, on January 24th edition
24 that article was nowhere to be
25 found. Not on the front page or

1 anywhere in the paper. The next day
2 I called to ask him why wasn't this
3 front story run. He told me he
4 forgot. So, Madam Chairman, if that
5 article I gave had run, you'd
6 probably have a lot more people in
7 our community here tonight opposing
8 Tiger State Ethanol.

9 Do not grant Tiger State Ethanol
10 their permits.

11 MS. WRIGHT:

12 Next is Mary Ellen Roper
13 followed by Melissa Brignac.

14 MS. ROPER:

15 My name is Mary Ellen Roper. I
16 reside at 3474 Berman Street in
17 Paulina, Louisiana. I don't have a
18 prepared speech, I'm just here to
19 let you know that we are definitely

20 in opposition of Tiger State Ethanol

21 locating at the St. Elmo facility in

22 Paulina.

23 Most of my neighbors, family and

24 friends have already spoken and we

25 all feel the same way. Please do

1 not issue the permit to Tiger State

2 Ethanol. Thank you.

3 MS. WRIGHT:

4 Melissa Brignac followed by

5 Wendy Fontenot.

6 MS. BRIGNAC:

7 I'm Melissa Brignac, I reside at

8 3640 Nicole Street, Paulina,

9 Louisiana and I just wanted to give

10 my opposition to the grant of this

11 permit.

12 MS. WRIGHT:

13 Wendy Fontenot followed by

14 Teresa Roussel. Roussel, excuse me.

15 MS. FONTENOT:

16 I'm Wendy Fontenot, 3368 Berman

17 Lane, Paulina. I live about two

18 tenths of a mile from it. I'm here

19 for four reasons. The first reason

20 as a homeowner, second reason which
21 I just found out before I came here,
22 I'm one of ten children and one of
23 them sent their letters, so I'll put
24 this on Record and knew she could
25 not be here tonight.

1 Another reason is that I'm a
2 part of the District 3 Recreation
3 Board in Paulina. I have several
4 pictures to show you. It's going to
5 show you that - and I'll get these
6 to you after. We were told at the
7 two meetings that one of the
8 entrances would be on River Road and
9 the other entrance would be on Sugar
10 House Road, which is going right in
11 front of our small park.

12 So I have pictures of that as
13 well as the small park. Nothing
14 fancy. You have a couple of tennis
15 courts, a small walking track, two
16 to three fields. And here's a
17 picture of how close the ethanol
18 plant would be from the site. Just
19 feet from the park. And the land is

20 supposed to go up right next to the
21 park.
22 I'm also here as a school
23 teacher at Paulina Elementary and
24 I'm also - I've had children go to
25 Chanel and I went to Chanel and St.

1 Joseph Elementary School way back
2 when and I have pictures of that.
3 We are a very ruled school. We're
4 very lucky. We have a playground.
5 And I want to show you the pictures
6 of that and I want to - in the back
7 you can see that the ethanol plant
8 is within site of this. And, in
9 fact, it's, I was in my car, it's
10 9/10 of a mile away from the ethanol
11 site.
12 And we're real lucky I'm a P.E.
13 teacher too with a big backyard and
14 you can see again the ethanol site.
15 Our biggest fear is when the cow
16 gets out next door. And so we
17 really don't want any other problems
18 in our - in the - in the school
19 system. We have a lot of kids with

20 asthma, which is what we have said
21 already and I mean, I think there's
22 10 devices, pumps and things at
23 school with numerous other children
24 who have asthma problems.
25 I'm also a homeowner. So I have

1 a picture of that. I really - I
2 went to the meetings and I felt like
3 we received no answers to our
4 questions. And this second time
5 they came back we still did not get
6 any answers. And, in fact, some of
7 their stories changed. The first
8 time we were there and it was not
9 supposed to be so much rail traffic
10 and then the second time we came to
11 the meetings a lot of rail traffic.

12 I really feel - I don't fear
13 for myself so much, I fear for all
14 the children, the odors. We have
15 children that when the guy next door
16 at the school is burning trash we
17 had to move some kids in because of
18 their asthma. I can't imagine if
19 dust is flying or - I mean what if

20 there's an accident or some kind of
21 release? The carcinogens, the
22 transportation of gas, and we're not
23 even talking about all the people
24 that are at the park. The people
25 let their children walk to the park,

1 play basketball, go to baseball
2 games. What happens if there's an
3 emergency at that time? There's no
4 buffer zone.

5 I am also disturbed that there
6 was no safety records or that this
7 plant does not have any other
8 ethanol experience. Here's my
9 question. What is the likelihood or
10 risk potential of releases or
11 accidents? And second, should we
12 take the chance with the children?

13 Thank you (handing).

14 MS. WRIGHT:

15 Let the Record reflect that Ms.
16 Wendy Fontenot has submitted a
17 written letter and photographs,
18 which I will mark as Exhibit Number
19 6. And these will be attached to

20 the Record. Also for the Record we
21 will backtrack and get Ruth Snyder's
22 as Exhibit Number 5. Next is Ms.
23 Teresa Roussel followed by Cornelius
24 Roper.
25 MS. ROUSSEL:

1 My name is Teresa Roussel, I
2 live at 327 LA 642 North. I too
3 would like to now ask the DEQ not to
4 allow this plant to come to our area
5 because of the schools. I have
6 grandchildren who attend Paulina
7 Elementary School and our local
8 churches. Please do not give them
9 this permit. Thank you.

10 MS. WRIGHT:

11 Cornelius Roper followed by Mr.
12 Gail Roussel.

13 MR. ROPER:

14 My name is Cornelius Roper. I
15 live at 39606 Ferdinand Street
16 Paulina. I oppose this permit. Do
17 not let this plant in our parish.

18 MS. WRIGHT:

19 Gail Roussel followed by Annette

20 Poche.

21 MS. ROUSSEL:

22 Good afternoon. My name is Gail

23 Roussel. I live at 3572 Pinwheel

24 Drive in Paulina and I just want to

25 voice my concern tonight and say

1 that I oppose the ethanol plant.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. WRIGHT:

4 Annette Poche followed by

5 Celeste Louque.

6 MS. POCHE:

7 I'm Annette Poche and I am in

8 opposition of this plant locating in

9 Paulina. I live at 3494 Perique

10 Drive, Paulina, Louisiana. Thank

11 you.

12 MS. WRIGHT:

13 Celeste Louque followed by

14 Angela Lambert.

15 MS. LOUQUE:

16 My name is Celeste Louque and I

17 live at 3439 Laurel Street, Paulina,

18 Louisiana and I do not support the

19 Tiger State Ethanol St. Elmo's

20 facility proposed air permit to be
21 located in Paulina, Louisiana and
22 what I'm concerned about as an
23 asthmatic I'm really concerned about
24 the health issues with that. That
25 would be a whole - if the air

1 permit is permitted. Thank you.

2 MS. WRIGHT:

3 Angela Lambert followed by

4 Crystal Hymel.

5 MS. LAMBERT:

6 My name is Angela Lambert and

7 I'm here to oppose the whole permit.

8 Thank you.

9 MS. WRIGHT:

10 Crystal Hymel followed by Brian

11 Landry.

12 MS. HYMEL:

13 Hi, my name is Crystal Hymel. I

14 live at 3409 Lena Street, Paulina

15 and I'm here to oppose the new plant

16 that is trying to come in. I have

17 two beautiful children. I do not

18 want them to be involved in this

19 hazardous waste that may be coming

20 out. And I like where I live. I
21 came here - moved to Paulina
22 because I heard it was a nice
23 environment. I like the quietness
24 and I would like to leave it that
25 way. So I'm here to oppose.

1 MS. WRIGHT:

2 Brian Landry followed by Wendell

3 Ducet.

4 MR. LANDRY:

5 Good evening. I'm Brian Landry.

6 I reside at 3544 Redwood Lane,

7 Paulina, Louisiana 70763. And I'm

8 one of those people that you talked

9 about earlier that everybody finally

10 said, "Come to St. James Parish

11 because it's a great place to live.

12 It's a great community." I'm one of

13 those people. I only moved here

14 about a year and a half ago to come

15 here for the exact purpose of why

16 the community is what it is.

17 The environment is great, it's a

18 great place to live, the people are

19 wonderful here. And I came here

20 because it's a place you can walk
21 outside, you can look outside, you
22 can breathe fresh air. It's a great
23 place. And that's why I came here.
24 And if you - if this plant
25 comes here, that they're proposing

1 this ethanol plant, it's a - steady
2 the exact purpose why I came here.
3 People are not going to want to move
4 to a community of a place where they
5 have problems and they can't breathe
6 fresh air. An ethanol plant is
7 really just going to kill the
8 population growth.

9 And I just said, this is the
10 biggest population growth in this
11 area in St. James Parish. So having
12 that plant here is really going -
13 really cause a lot of damage and any
14 kind of people that want to come
15 into the community. So I'm here to
16 say that I oppose this plant being
17 here. They should not put this
18 plant, and please, we will not put
19 this plant here. Thank you.

20 MS. WRIGHT:

21 Wendell Ducet followed by - I'm

22 sorry, Irvin Louque.

23 MR. DUCET:

24 He's going to pass. Call the

25 next name.

1 MS. WRIGHT:

2 Okay. Well, followed by Sharon
3 Ducet.

4 MR. DUCET:

5 My name is Wendell Ducet. My
6 current address is 3939 (inaudible)
7 Street, Paulina, Louisiana. I
8 currently own property located at
9 3404 Sugar House Street, Paulina.
10 The road that they're talking about
11 putting it on. Before I start my
12 presentation I want to state that I
13 speak for myself and represent only
14 myself and no other organizations or
15 groups.

16 My property is located a few
17 hundred yards directly north of the
18 proposed facility. I purchased my
19 property in February of 1989. My

20 property is also located directly
21 west of the public recreational park
22 that is owned by St. James Parish.
23 This recreational park is also
24 located a few hundred yards north
25 directly - directly north of the

1 proposed facility.

2 This recreation park is used by
3 several schools throughout the year
4 for various events or activities for
5 the children. This park is also
6 used for adult softball and flag
7 football leagues. There are several
8 tennis courts, a basketball court
9 and also a walking track that are
10 used daily by children and adults of
11 the area.

12 As stated earlier, the wind
13 comes from the southerly direction
14 nearly all through the year. This
15 means that my property, along with
16 the park property and all other
17 properties located north of this
18 facility, proposed facility, we will
19 receive nearly all of the pollutants

20 of this facility. I have concerns
21 - a serious concerns about my
22 personal safety and my family
23 because of this.
24 Louisiana revised Statutes
25 30.2014.2A specifically states the

1 rules shall require a person seeking
2 such permit or ownership interest to
3 allude a list of states where the
4 applicant in federal or state
5 environmental permits identical to
6 or of a similar nature to the permit
7 for which applications they need.

8 No lists of other permits as
9 required was posted on the DEQ's
10 website within this proposed permit.

11 Although this applicant has a
12 pending permit in the Paulina,
13 Louisiana area.

14 If a list of other permits and
15 or facilities must contain with a
16 proposed permit that the DEQ should
17 have included this list on their
18 website so that the public could
19 analyze and compare this and any

20 other facility objectively. On the
21 DEQ's website there was a document
22 identified as worksheet for
23 technical review or working a draft
24 of a proposed permit Page 3 of 284
25 and Page 4 of 284, which I'm going

1 to provide later on.

2 This document has several
3 sections in it. In the section
4 identified as Remote this section
5 was completed by Ryan Estes:
6 Environmental One, LLC. According
7 to Louisiana Secretary of State's
8 Corporation Division Environmental
9 One, LLC is listed as not able to
10 stand for failure to file a current
11 annual report. The Secretary of
12 State's website states that the last
13 report was filed on 8-24-06. Those
14 documents will be presented to you
15 later.

16 Now, let's discuss the proposed
17 permit. On the page identified as
18 inventory, Page 15 of 284. On this
19 page there is an item listed as EQT

20 0024, denatrate gasoline 150,000
21 gallons. 150,000 gallons of
22 gasoline to be located this near to
23 a park property and mine. This is
24 of serious concern to my family and
25 mine.

1 On the pages of the proposed
2 permit identifies as specific
3 requirements Page 1 of 11 or Page 22
4 of 284, under the items listed as
5 EQT 0001-0107 grain unloading number
6 four, EQT 003 -

7 MS. WRIGHT:

8 One minute.

9 MR. DUCET:

10 - loading. Okay. DES loading
11 filter vents, emissions - visible
12 emissions monitored by visioners and
13 daily inspections. The invisible
14 emissions restore operations filter
15 to its normal or usual working
16 operation as practical, but at a
17 minimal within three working days in
18 accordance with good air pollution
19 control practices. Allow this

20 applicant to run with a no and or
21 limited dust protection for three
22 working days is too long and a great
23 concern of mine considering the way
24 (inaudible).
25 Three days is probably the

1 normal for this applicant in this
2 type of facility, but the applicant
3 can agree to a shorter amount of
4 time and this shorter time will
5 probably help this permit.

6 MS. WRIGHT:

7 I'm going to have to cut you
8 off, Mr. Ducet.

9 MR. DUCET:

10 Thank you.

11 MS. WRIGHT:

12 However, after everyone's had a
13 chance to speak if you would like to
14 finish you can come up to finish if
15 you would like.

16 MR. DUCET:

17 Thank you.

18 MS. WRIGHT:

19 Please let the Record reflect

20 that Mr. Ducet has submitted written
21 comments, which I'm now marking as
22 Exhibit Number 7, which will be
23 attached to the Record.

24 Next we have Ms. Sharon Ducet
25 followed by Jude Roper.

1 MS. DUCET:

2 My name is Sharon Ducet and I
3 live at 39398 Ale Street and I own
4 - also have property at 3404 Sugar
5 House Lane. And I do not support
6 Tiger State Ethanol facility's
7 proposed minor air permit to be
8 located in Paulina, Louisiana
9 because of everything that's been
10 said so far and then some. That's
11 about all I have to say. But I do
12 not support it.

13 MS. WRIGHT:

14 Jude Roper followed by Niles
15 Celeste Allison.

16 MR. ROPER:

17 My name is Jude Roper I live at
18 3433 Stella Road, me and my family
19 and I do - definitely do not want

20 Tiger Ethanol plant in my backyard.

21 MS. WRIGHT:

22 Niles Celeste Allison.

23 MS. CRAWFORD:

24 She's not going to speak.

25 MS. WRIGHT:

1 Okay. Well, then next we have
2 Darren Plaisance followed by
3 Cynthia Crawford. Darren
4 Plaisance? Okay. We will be
5 moving on then to Ms. Cynthia
6 Crawford followed by Gerald Roper.

7 MS. CRAWFORD:

8 Cynthia Crawford and I live 3336
9 Morel Street, Paulina, Louisiana. I
10 definitely oppose the ethanol plant.

11 MS. WRIGHT:

12 Gerard Roper followed by Regina
13 Forsythe.

14 MR. ROPER:

15 My name is Gerard Roper and I
16 strongly oppose Tiger State Ethanol.

17 MS. WRIGHT:

18 Regina Forsythe? She will be
19 followed by Brenda Melancon.

20 MS. FORSYTHE:

21 Regina Forsythe, 3428 Sugar

22 House Street, the very street that

23 Tiger State Ethanol wants to use to

24 - as an entrance to their plant.

25 The very street that that park that

1 everybody spoke about is on. This
2 permit can not go. Please deny this
3 permit. Our quality of life will
4 definitely go down.

5 I have 18 grandchildren and we
6 have many parties and gatherings at
7 our house in our backyard. They
8 love to come to mawmaw and pawpaw's
9 house. They will not be able to
10 come with all of those dangerous
11 chemicals going down our street.
12 These 18-wheelers, our street won't
13 hold them to begin with, and all the
14 pollutants that will be in the air.
15 Please deny this permit.

16 MS. WRIGHT:

17 Brenda Melancon followed by
18 Jeanine Chauvin.

19 MS. MELANCON:

20 My name is Brenda Melancon. I
21 reside at 3381 South Angelle Street
22 in Paulina, Louisiana. I'm a member
23 of our parish's economic development
24 board and for many years I've worked
25 for economic development, but I do

1 oppose this project at the St.
2 Elmo's site. I also - I don't know
3 if I can say this now, but I also
4 work within one-quarter mile of this
5 facility at 2992 LA 44.

6 For the last 27 years I've owned
7 and operated a daycare center state
8 licensed Class A here on - We can
9 have 40 children per day, five days
10 a week, 11 hours a day. Six hours a
11 day are spent outside. And I
12 strongly oppose this site.

13 MS. WRIGHT:

14 Jeanine Chauvin? Jeanine
15 Chauvin? We'll move on then to Neil
16 Poche followed by - Barbara -
17 followed by Barbara Kramer. Neil
18 Poche? Barbara Kramer? Okay.
19 Barbara will be followed by Roger

20 Kramer.

21 MS. KRAMER:

22 Barbara Kramer and my address is

23 3451 Stella Road. I'm of the Roper

24 clan number 14 and I have nine good

25 reasons. I have two sons and I have

1 nine grandchildren that live not too
2 far from where the proposed site is
3 supposed to be. And I have one of
4 my grandchildren, she is deathly
5 afraid of the proposed site and she
6 drew this diagram that says, "The
7 ethanol plant will kill trees and
8 us." And she's really, really
9 scared to death. And I have a
10 picture of where the elevator is now
11 from my backyard in the back of my
12 house.

13 My husband's fixing to retire,
14 wants to retire. He loves to garden
15 and he has hunting dogs and this
16 proposed site if they get their
17 permit, I'm highly afraid that won't
18 exist. So I pray to God that this
19 permit will be - they will not

20 receive their permit. And I thank
21 God for all the people that showed
22 up tonight. I thank you (handing).

23 MS. WRIGHT:

24 Let the Record reflect that Ms.
25 Barbara Kramer submitted two

1 exhibits, which I have marked
2 together as Exhibit Number 8.
3 Photograph and diagram.

4 Next we have Roger Kramer who
5 will be followed by Lydia Gravois.

6 Roger Kramer?

7 MR. KRAMER:

8 My name is Roger Kramer. I live
9 at 3451 Stella Road and I oppose the
10 ethanol plant.

11 MS. WRIGHT:

12 Lydia Gravois followed by Gary
13 Allison.

14 MS. GRAVOIS:

15 I'm Lydia Gravois, 3488
16 (inaudible) Street Paulina,
17 Louisiana and I also have a photo
18 that can show how close this ethanol
19 plant is. I have been a resident of

20 Paulina for the past 24 years. I
21 live two tenths from the proposed
22 site of the ethanol plant. I have
23 raised four children in the small
24 family oriented community.
25

1 I live in walking distance from
2 the park where our children played
3 and many of our residents would go
4 to walk and exercise. I and many of
5 our residents in our area are cancer
6 survivors. I have fought through
7 chemo and radiation to help improve
8 the quality of life.

9 I would hate to see this ethanol
10 plant move into our neighborhood
11 that has at least six of its
12 pollutants that are considered
13 carcinogen. These chemicals can be
14 released into our air and lessen the
15 quality of our life. Please do not
16 let a permit - a permit to this
17 plant (handing).

18 MS. WRIGHT:

19 Let the Record reflect that

20 Lydia Gravois has submitted a photo,
21 which I am marking as Exhibit Number
22 9 and it will be attached to the
23 Record.

24 Next is Gary Allison who will be
25 followed by Brent Duhon, Sr.

1 MR. ALLISON:

2 Good evening. I'm Gary Allison
3 from 3567 Beth Lane in Paulina. Let
4 the Record show that I'm also
5 representing my 78 year old mother.
6 But I talk for my mother and my wife
7 and my two grandsons. And from
8 hearing what I've heard tonight it's
9 my understanding that Tiger State
10 Ethanol has approval on this and the
11 approval of the community to build
12 an ethanol plant in Convent.

13 It's also my understanding that
14 Tiger State Ethanol would rather
15 built and operate a plant in Paulina
16 to save approximately \$60 million
17 dollars in construction costs. If
18 this permit is approved, it would be
19 at the expense of our health and

20 other risks associated with the
21 products and byproducts that are
22 highly flammable and cancer causing.
23 I respectfully request that you
24 deny this permit and do not allow
25 this company to build in Paulina and

1 expose our community to all the
2 documented health risks associated
3 with this type of facility. And I
4 do not see cancer as a minor source
5 issue. Thank you.

6 MS. WRIGHT:

7 Brent Duhon followed by Brady
8 Plaissance.

9 MR. DUHON:

10 My name Brent John Duhon, Sr.
11 I'm a resident of St. James Parish
12 at 3439 Street, approximately 100
13 feet from the proposed property line
14 that Tiger State Ethanol is trying
15 to get on the northwest corner. I'm
16 against the proposed permit
17 submitted to you by Tiger State
18 Ethanol at St. Elmo's facility.

19 I recently moved here from a

20 neighboring parish. 11 months.
21 Living between an oil refinery and a
22 chemical plant that both have
23 expansions in the past years has
24 closed in on me. After 53 years I
25 decided to move my location in an

1 area I thought was no industry that
2 would box me in. Well, here I am.
3 I'm not against this ethanol plant,
4 I'm against its location.

5 In 2007 bio-fuels consumed one
6 third of America's corn harvest.
7 Filling up one SUV automobile fuel
8 tank one time with ethanol uses
9 enough corn to feed one person for a
10 year. 30 metric tons of U.S. corn
11 going to ethanol in 2007 greatly
12 reduces the world's supply of grain.
13 Ethanol contains about 34 percent
14 less energy per unit volume than
15 gasoline.

16 Therefore, the result in 34
17 percent reduction in miles per
18 gallon. Do the math. Will it
19 really help? Only our future will

20 tell. Due to the reports of the air

21 operating permit approves the

22 operation of catalytic converters

23 that will burn off wasted fuel. I

24 never heard of that.

25 The EPA and the DEQ are able to

1 develop to protect not only the
2 environment, but its people from
3 harmful, toxic, air pollutants. If
4 these agencies allow industries to
5 move in within a hundred feet of
6 residential areas, we will continue
7 to have more deaths related to air
8 pollution, cancer, lung disease, and
9 emphysema. My dad died of emphysema
10 at 46 years old with 12 kids.

11 I read a EPA article that stated
12 if they reduce the percent allowed
13 in air emissions coming from
14 industrial facilities in a range
15 that would protect all people in all
16 areas, most industries would have to
17 shut down only because they would
18 not be able to meet those standards.
19 What a price to pay for mankind.

20 Why not start today and reject
21 the permit requested by Tiger State,
22 reduce the allowed emissions
23 standards that already are set forth
24 by DEQ and our government, and
25 protect our communities better with

1 cleaner air quality. Yes, I am from
2 St. James Parish and I'm glad to be
3 here. Thank you.

4 MS. WRIGHT:

5 Brady Plaisance? Brady
6 Plaisance? We will move on then
7 with Ms. Charlotte M-E-T-G-E. Okay.
8 Ms. Charlotte Metge. And Ms. Metge
9 will be followed by a David Lambert.

10 MS. METGE:

11 Good evening. I have a written
12 statement and also some pictures I
13 would like to submit. One picture
14 is of my neighbor's home, which is
15 following Highway 44, River Road.
16 She is a child care provider and has
17 three children she's raising in her
18 home. Another picture is another
19 neighbor. Also her home follows

20 River Road. She is raising two
21 children and has one on the way. I
22 have three pictures of children I
23 provide care for playing in my
24 backyard.
25 And my statement is I am here

1 speaking to you on behalf of myself,
2 my family, neighbors, friends and my
3 job. I am concerned for the safety
4 and health hazards for all if this
5 type of ethanol plant is given a
6 provision to build on this St.
7 Elmo's site. My husband and I have
8 raised our three children at 3172
9 Metge Street. This location is
10 right beside Stone Oil Lane. We
11 were constantly burdened with the
12 grain dust and odor problem from
13 Peavey.

14 I am a childcare provider.
15 Three of the children that I care
16 for have been diagnosed with asthma.
17 My children I care for love going
18 out in my backyard to play. There
19 has been times in the past when we

20 were out that we had to go in due to
21 problems created by Peavey. There
22 even was a time when one child
23 thought it was snowing because of
24 dust particles falling from the sky.
25 Is it fair that these children

1 would be once again deprived of
2 going out to play because of toxins
3 in the air or grain dust falling on
4 their head? Or odors that are
5 unbearable or any other problem that
6 can be the result of this facility?

7 No one at Tiger Ethanol will
8 hear the cries of these little
9 children when they are told we must
10 go in because of a problem due to
11 this plant. There is a location
12 available for this plant to built.

13 A location that has been approved
14 and would not disrupt the way of
15 life for our community. This
16 location will not disrupt the safety
17 of these children, my family,
18 neighbors and friends.

19 Please do not allow this plant

20 to disrupt the lives of our
21 community. We would like to
22 continue to be able to enjoy
23 backyard activities, barbeque's, and
24 everyday life without any concerns
25 of health hazards or of safety. The

1 solution to the safety and well-
2 being of this community is no permit
3 for this Tiger Ethanol Plant at the
4 St. Elmo's location. Thank you for
5 your consideration (handing).

6 MS. WRIGHT:

7 Let the Record reflect that Ms.
8 Charlotte Metge has submitted a
9 written statement and photographs,
10 which I will be marking as Exhibit
11 10 and we will attach to the Record.

12 Next is David Lambert.

13 MR. LAMBERT:

14 My name is David Lambert. I
15 live at 3430 Highway 44 Paulina,
16 Louisiana. Right next door to
17 Peavey's proposed site, Tiger State
18 Ethanol. I would like to state I am
19 strongly opposed against this site.

20 MS. WRIGHT:

21 Next is Rachel Allemand followed

22 by Keith Duran - Duran. Rachel

23 Allemand followed by Keith Duran.

24 Is Rachel here? Is she present? We

25 will have Keith Duran followed by

1 Bonnie Poche. Keith Duran? Is he
2 present? We will move on then to
3 Bonnie Poche. Bonnie Poche will be
4 followed by Mark Bourgeois.

5 MS. POCHE:

6 Good evening. My name is Bonnie
7 Poche. I live at 3271 LA 642,
8 Paulina. I've been there all my
9 life. We reside on family land.
10 I'm representing the Louque family
11 and approximately nine houses past
12 the railroad track on the left side
13 of Highway 642 and we strongly
14 oppose the granting of this permit
15 to this facility at St. Elmo.

16 My residence is approximately
17 300 yards from the proposed site and
18 my family and I are concerned about
19 hazardous materials that's going to

20 be stored so close to our front
21 yards. They are also known
22 carcinogens on the applicant list.
23 And we've already lost, number one,
24 a father to cancer, we have an aunt
25 who is now suffering from cancer, I

1 have a daughter with asthma, I have
2 a first cousin with asthma, I have a
3 niece with asthma all within those
4 nine houses. And we all line
5 Highway 642 and all of our front
6 yards align the highway, which is
7 right next to the plant site.

8 We also dealt with years and
9 years of grain dust problems from
10 the Peavey facility and the ADM
11 facility, which we are now involved
12 with a pending lawsuit. We have
13 given numerous opportunities to
14 correct the dust problems. I have
15 police reports from all of the calls
16 that have come in over the years for
17 this facility for the dust that
18 people have called in that they
19 couldn't take the dust going in

20 their houses or on their cars or in
21 their front yards.
22 We can not - When the barges
23 are being unloaded in the river we
24 can not stay outside. We can not
25 open our windows in the Spring. We

1 can not open our windows in the
2 Fall. We can not enjoy our front
3 yards, our backyards. We can't stay
4 outside at all when the barges are
5 unloading.

6 I now have grandchildren that
7 attend Paulina Elementary School
8 just a mile from that facility. I
9 have children and grandchildren that
10 play sports at Longview Recreation
11 Park, which is also a mile from the
12 facility. And I have pictures of
13 the residences along Highway 642 to
14 show all of the Louque residences
15 and how close they are to Highway
16 642, and how close we are to the
17 highway so if anything happened as
18 far as the transportation of
19 gasoline on this substandard

20 roadway, if something happens it'll
21 end up right at our front door.
22 And I also have a map to show
23 how close we are to the facility
24 there and I'd like to also exhibit
25 all of these police reports to show

1 the past grain dust problems we've
2 had from the Peavey and ADM
3 facilities. Thank you (handing).

4 MS. WRIGHT:

5 Let the Record reflect that Ms.
6 Bonnie Poche has submitted written
7 documents, data, a map and
8 photographs, which I'm marking as
9 Exhibit Number 11, which will be
10 attached to the Record.

11 Next our new speaker is Mark
12 Bourgeois followed by Ruby
13 Bourgeois.

14 MR. BOURGEOIS:

15 Hi, my name is Mark Bourgeois.
16 Everyone here knows me. We're all
17 family. Our land is next to the
18 proposed plant. It's the original
19 grant of the Bourgeois'. All that

20 land on 642 comes from my heirs, my
21 ancestors. Now, I personally
22 witnessed the result of Peavey. I
23 lived with the grain dust. I
24 actually washed my vehicle and could
25 not finish the other side without

1 the opposite side turning white on
2 me. I've seen my hair turn color as
3 a young man. I, myself, suffer with
4 asthma which I think correlates to
5 the previous plant.

6 Now, if we're going to bring
7 this plant in, we have already -
8 We already have problems with
9 drainage in this area. They can not
10 adequately support the residents in
11 this area. You ask me give this
12 permit to this plant. Now, any
13 overflow that comes from that
14 property comes on our land in that
15 corner. The Bourgeois' and the
16 Lander's, the Waguespack's. We are
17 directly effected.

18 Also the traffic. I have
19 personally witnessed dump trucks,

20 cane trucks and other vehicles flip
21 into our yard. Those houses that
22 are next to there are less than 30
23 feet away from the highway. These
24 are the things that directly effect
25 us and my family. I say no to this

1 permit. Let the good times roll.

2 That's what this community is about

3 and we want it to continue. Thank

4 you.

5 MS. WRIGHT:

6 Our next speaker is Ruby

7 Bourgeois followed by Greg Zeringue.

8 MS. BOURGEOIS:

9 Hello. My name is Ruby

10 Bourgeois. I live at 3108 Highway

11 642, Paulina, Louisiana. I've been

12 living there all my married life and

13 my husband lived there all his life.

14 He just recently died a year and a

15 half ago. He had emphysema and he

16 also had colon cancer. And my

17 brother-in-law also has lung cancer,

18 emphysema. And now I am being told

19 that I might have COPD myself. And

20 I strongly, strongly oppose having

21 this plant here. Thank you.

22 MS. WRIGHT:

23 Greg Zeringue followed by

24 Michael Hoppy.

25 MR. ZERINGUE:

1 This is Greg Zeringue, 3350
2 Tupelo Lane, Paulina. Louisiana
3 State Law entrusts the Louisiana DEQ
4 to be the primary public trustee of
5 the environment. The DEQ must
6 consider the environmental costs
7 versus social and economic benefits
8 of the project. Only when the
9 social and economic benefits
10 outweigh the environmental cost can
11 a permit be issued. While the
12 environmental costs of this project
13 would be definite and long lasting
14 there is no guarantee that there
15 will be economic benefits or that
16 they will be long lasting.

17 If market conditions are not
18 fair, then there's no guarantee that
19 the 50 proposed permanent jobs will

20 not be reduced or eliminated. Tiger
21 State Ethanol has no prior
22 experience in industrial production,
23 no environmental track record, no
24 economic track record. An
25 administrator that's not proven to

1 be known.

2 Emissions, storage and
3 trafficking of volatile materials in
4 a residential area close to schools,
5 churches and parks with inadequate
6 infrastructure makes this project
7 too risky. Particularly for a new
8 venture. There are no social
9 benefits. There is no guaranteed
10 economic benefit or that it will be
11 lasting. The environmental costs is
12 immediate and absolute and will be
13 lasting. Thank you.

14 MS. WRIGHT:

15 Our next speaker is Michael
16 Hoppy followed by Jared Amatto.

17 MR. HOPPY:

18 My name is Michael Hoppy. My
19 address is 2834 Highway 44, Paulina.

20 I'd like to say before I begin that
21 I'm really grateful that I can be
22 here this evening as a citizen and
23 object to this facility being built.
24 And I'd also like to say to the
25 Department of Environmental Quality

1 that this issue is so sensitive, it
2 is so important to this area that it
3 has literally brought tears to
4 people in order for them to come up
5 here and object to this. And I
6 just need to go on the Record saying
7 that.

8 A little over a year ago I
9 bought a little Texas plantation
10 located at my address. It was built
11 in 1840 and it was a house on the
12 national register. It's been
13 neglected for quite a while and I
14 was very happy to purchase this
15 property and I'm in the process of
16 doing an extensive restoration,
17 taking it back to the 1800's and I
18 plan on making it my home when
19 completed.

20 Had I now known that I would
21 have a neighbor as an ethanol plant,
22 I would have never considered
23 purchasing the property in this
24 parish. I currently live outside of
25 the parish, but I have been looking

1 forward to moving into this parish.

2 There are two strong reasons why

3 I chose to come here. Number one,

4 Paulina is a nice, clean community

5 and I was drawn to it. And also the

6 fact that St. James Parish in

7 general is very rich in history.

8 The people come from all over the

9 world every year to visit this

10 parish, to visit the plantations, as

11 well as Manresa and to learn more

12 about the rich history this parish

13 has.

14 And as a result it's an

15 important part of the economic

16 growth and development of this

17 parish, as well as the whole state.

18 I believe this parish has enough

19 polluting industries already. We

20 don't need another one. It turns
21 people away. And, again, I'd like
22 to say if I'd have known this was in
23 the process of taking place, I would
24 have never invested in this parish.
25 I would have stayed where I was.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. WRIGHT:

3 Our next speaker is Jared Amatto
4 followed by Steven Poche.

5 MR. AMATTO:

6 Jared Amatto, 3708 North
7 Angelle, Paulina, Louisiana. As
8 most of the preceding speakers have
9 alluded to, Tiger State Ethanol
10 you've attacked pretty good.
11 Justifiably so, the mere mention
12 from Excel that Tiger State Ethanol
13 and its investors want to purchase
14 corn from St. James Parish farmers
15 shows how inept and how little they
16 care of St. James Parish.

17 As Mr. Zeringue alluded to just
18 a few moments ago, DEQ must consider
19 the cost to the environment versus

20 the social and economic benefits
21 when considering the permit.
22 According to an article of November
23 6, 2007 the Louisiana Gambit News
24 Service experts predict the future
25 in bio-fuel lies not in corn-based

1 ethanol, but in cellulosic ethanol,
2 that's sugar cane.

3 According to our own department
4 of natural resources, the last major
5 ethanol proportion from 1984 to '90.
6 Seven years. During that time 18
7 plants were considered, nine were
8 built and only six actually operated
9 during this period. The capacity
10 for these seven years was close to a
11 billion gallons of ethanol.

12 However, only 10 percent of that
13 was actually produced from all six
14 plants combined. Considering these
15 facts, and this is for DEQ, what
16 makes DEQ confident that the corn
17 ethanol market can survive in order
18 to consider the issuing of this
19 permit to be a wise use of state

20 resources?

21 Second, with this industry's

22 track record in Louisiana, what

23 factors will you use and who will

24 use them at DEQ when calculating the

25 economic benefits to the state and

1 parish of St. James and Paulina
2 Louisiana? They gave me from the
3 Louisiana Department of Natural
4 Resources website, and here's where
5 it gets interesting. Of these six
6 plants that operated, only two were
7 still capable of production.

8 The first is Mississippi River
9 Alcohol Company located outside of
10 Belle Chase. They're prohibited
11 from operating due to pending
12 litigation over design performance.

13 The second plant, Chevron Oil in
14 Jennings. The owners do not want to
15 operate this plant, but want to sell
16 to out-of-state investors. However,
17 the Louisiana Department of
18 Environmental quality is blocking
19 this sale due to environmental

20 liability with the states.

21 Why is this? Where would these

22 answers be located? The Louisiana

23 State Laws would entrust that the

24 Louisiana DEQ given the primary

25 public trustee for our environment.

1 I challenge you, DEQ, to justify
2 granting this permit to Tiger State
3 Ethanol, a plant with no track
4 record in experience, much less in
5 success. I challenge you to issue
6 that permit. Thank you.

7 MS. WRIGHT:

8 Our next speaker is Stephen
9 Poche. Stephen Poche will be
10 followed by Kathy Louque.

11 MR. POCHE:

12 My name is Stephen Poche. I
13 live at 3271 Highway 642. All I
14 want to say is I don't want this
15 thing in my front yard. I'll be
16 walking out here every morning on
17 the front porch looking at an eye
18 sore, possibility an explosion. The
19 quality of life gone and I don't

20 want to see it. My friends don't
21 want to see it. My family doesn't
22 want to see it. My neighbors don't
23 want to see it. I don't want it, my
24 kids don't want it. Nobody wants
25 it. Please, don't grant this thing.

1

2 MS. WRIGHT:

3 Kathy Louque followed by Frank

4 Sevin. S-E-V-I-N. Okay. The

5 second. Frank Sevin, II.

6 MS. LOUQUE:

7 Good evening. My name is Kathy

8 Louque. I'm going to state that my

9 husband is Nathan cause there are

10 several Kathy Louque's in the area.

11 And I am part of the Louque family

12 that lives on 642. My daughter

13 suffers with asthma. I have skin

14 problems and they never could really

15 determine what causes it. It seems

16 like it's activated more when the

17 grain elevator's operating.

18 We do live about 500, 600 feet

19 from the railroad track and I do

20 live across from Snyder Road, which
21 puts my in the vicinity or like the
22 Grain Elevator, the facility would
23 be in my front yard also. And I do
24 oppose this facility. Thank you.
25 MS. WRIGHT:

1 Our next speaker is Frank Sevin,
2 II. He will be followed by Bruce
3 Sharwarth. Sharwarth. Mr. Frank
4 Sevin? Is he here? Okay. Moving
5 on then to Sharwarth. Mr. Bruce
6 Sharwarth who will be followed by
7 Craig Poche.

8 MR. SHARWARTH:

9 My name is Bruce Sharwarth. I
10 live at 3410 Sugar House Street.
11 The proposed entrance to the plant
12 is my street and this is taken from
13 my front yard. This is how close I
14 am to this plant. I'm against it,
15 my neighbors, the community. I
16 don't want to see this plant coming
17 in to use us as a buffer zone for
18 the chemicals, the pollutants that's
19 going to pass over us because of the

20 south and the east winds.
21 It's not right. I live in this
22 parish. I've been here all my life
23 and I don't want to leave. I love
24 this parish. I love this town. And
25 I want to stay. Thank you

1 (handing).

2 MS. WRIGHT:

3 Let the Record reflect that Mr.

4 Sharwarth has submitted a photograph

5 which I will mark as Exhibit Number

6 12, which will be attached to the

7 Record. Our next speaker is Mr.

8 Craig Poche. He will be followed by

9 Reginald Melancon.

10 MR. POCHE:

11 Craig Poche, 3416 Sugar House

12 Street in Paulina. The same street

13 that they're going to use to bring

14 the equipment in they're going to

15 use for this plant, and I'm going to

16 show you a picture of where my

17 driveway ends on Sugar House where

18 you would take the smallest pebble

19 and you would hit that property.

20 And I'll give it to you and you can
21 put it in your file. That's how
22 close it's going to be to where our
23 property's at 3416 Sugar House
24 Street.
25 Also where our parish park for

1 District 3 is at where the kids
2 play, the basketball games, the
3 soccer games, the school uses the
4 facility there.

5 I'd also like to talk about 642
6 how they're claiming all this
7 construction and the trucks are
8 going to go down there. If you pass
9 on the road, the road's caving in
10 with just cars going on it along the
11 canal. Along Sugar House Street, so
12 I don't know how they're going to
13 handle the trucks. So they're
14 intended to put another road in.

15 Also, I had the church and the
16 schools and the daycare centers we
17 have within a two-mile radius and if
18 you think about it, think about the
19 kids that's coming up in the area.

20 DEQ, I ask you for that.

21 Also I ask this committee to go

22 and visit the area. There's not

23 much place for these kids to ride

24 their four-wheelers and all that.

25 They let the kids ride in the area

1 about a 60 acre stretch. Three
2 weeks ago, you actually seen kids
3 crawfishing in the ditch. Never
4 seen that when Peavey was going in
5 with the grain elevator or you never
6 seen kids actually crawfishing in
7 the ditch. You're going to see that
8 this parish of this area here where
9 the ditches flow from that grain
10 elevator to the back of houses and
11 sewage drainage.

12 If that plant comes in, that's
13 one area where the kids play in the
14 area for that park where they can
15 ride four-wheelers or crawfishing in
16 the ditches. I ask you to consider
17 that also for me.

18 Also, in their two previous
19 meetings for Tiger, representatives

20 was going to build a plant. After
21 the meeting we found out and I asked
22 them, "Would you want this in your
23 front yard?" He actually looked at
24 me and said, "I don't want it." But
25 they want to shove it down our

1 throat. That's two meetings that we
2 actually had.

3 They don't want it in their
4 front yards, but when I open my
5 front door it's going be right there
6 looking at it. There's no buffer
7 zone. Sure they claim they're going
8 to use 30 acres, so that would be 60
9 acres of park. That's not -
10 they're going - long term. Long
11 term meaning they're going all the
12 way to the ditch from where my house
13 is that you can take the smallest
14 pebble and you can throw it and you
15 can hit that property line.

16 I ask you to deny the permit for
17 District 3 St. James Parish,
18 Louisiana and the kids, the churches
19 and the schools in this area. Thank

20 you (handing).

21 MS. WRIGHT:

22 Let the Record reflect that Mr.

23 Craig Poche has submitted a

24 photograph, which I have marked as

25 Exhibit 13, which will be attached

1 to the Record. Our next speaker is

2 Mr. Reginald Melancon.

3 MR. MELANCON:

4 I'm - I was never born in St.

5 James Parish, I was born in

6 Thibodaux. And 28 years ago when I

7 was coming out of the service we

8 moved to St. James Parish. I love

9 Thibodaux, I grew up over there.

10 It's a great place. I love this

11 place more. Many people came here,

12 ancestors, it's hundreds and

13 hundreds of years at this location.

14 This is a proud community. I

15 haven't been here very long, only

16 been sitting here for an hour and a

17 half and I haven't seen one person

18 recommend this.

19 I've been a senior manager in

20 industry. My profession is
21 logistics. Logistics defines the
22 right ways or the right time and the
23 right way to do things. I'm a
24 retired lieutenant colonel of the
25 United States Army. I taught in

1 college. And I'm going to tell you
2 something, I taught the army
3 logistics and I'd like to hear just
4 one thing to make sure that this. I
5 can't imagine coming into a
6 community and telling the community
7 I'm moving a plant there in one
8 place and missing a place like
9 Peavey. If they were looking for a
10 place to put their tent, it should
11 have never been in Convent
12 logistically.

13 I would give my humble opinion
14 that they always knew they wanted
15 Peavey. That's m opinion. Another
16 thing is from a practical
17 standpoint, you're looking at coming
18 up the river with barges, you're not
19 going down river typically. Much of

20 what's coming in this country is
21 going to be coming from the South
22 and Central, but mostly South
23 America.
24 When you're talking about the
25 growing industry that we're talking

1 about right now, there's a potential
2 for great savings to have Peavey
3 over what's happening here. Plus
4 the facility is there, it's already
5 in place.

6 So if they were going to Convent
7 all along, why would they change
8 their mind? So I don't understand
9 that. Yeah, I'd just like to enter
10 that as my opinion. I am totally
11 against them settling here in
12 Paulina because I am just - and I
13 enjoy jogging and track. But the
14 main reason is because I think from
15 an environmental standpoint the
16 first environment should be family
17 like this community.

18 MS. WRIGHT:

19 The next group - that ends our

20 group of speakers who live within

21 the two-mile radius of the facility.

22 The next group of speakers will be

23 those who work within a two-mile

24 radius of the proposed facility.

25 And our first speaker in that

1 group is Ms. Brenda Huget. Huget.

2 Ms. Brenda Huget. Okay. And she

3 will be followed by Barry Heltz.

4 MS. HUGET:

5 I'm Brenda Huget and I live at

6 6334 Avenue 24 in Convent, Louisiana

7 70723. This is kind of emotional

8 for me because I'm a victim of a

9 chemical inhalation that destroyed

10 35 to 40 percent of my lung capacity

11 a couple of years ago. The same

12 chemicals that they're asking to

13 emit now into our environment.

14 I work at - I can't even think

15 of my own work - at a daycare

16 center, a child daycare center at

17 2992 Highway 44 about a quarter of a

18 mile from this facility.

19 I daily have to undergo daily

20 breathing treatments and two other
21 different medications to survive a
22 fairly normal quality of life. I
23 oppose the Tiger Ethanol plant. If
24 this - if they're allowed to locate
25 there, I will have to leave my job

1 of over 20 years. Please do not
2 give Tiger Ethanol this permit
3 because just like my lungs were
4 destroyed, some of our children may
5 have ill effects. Thank you.

6 MS. WRIGHT:

7 Our next speaker is Barry Heltz.
8 He will be followed by Lois Moore.

9 MR. HELTZ:

10 Barry Heltz, 1875 Acadia
11 Boulevard, Lutchter. I am a physical
12 education instructor at Paulina
13 Elementary, one of the schools
14 located very close to the facility
15 proposed. We have 517 students at
16 Paulina Elementary. The largest
17 elementary public school in St.
18 James Parish.
19 I teach approximately 253 4, 5,

20 6 and 7 year old children everyday.
21 I lead them outside our gym to the
22 back of the school and I look over
23 to the left and I see this facility.
24 I wouldn't be here tonight if I
25 wasn't here tonight fighting for

1 those children. I'm not fighting
2 for myself, I'm fighting for the
3 kids, the future generation of St.
4 James Parish.

5 And when I go back to class
6 tomorrow I'll feel a lot better here
7 that I came to speak for them
8 tonight cause that's what it's all
9 about. It's for the children.

10 Thank you.

11 MS. WRIGHT:

12 Our last in this group is Ms.
13 Lois Moore.

14 MS. MOORE:

15 I live two miles, I don't work
16 in this group. But I should have
17 been with the following part.

18 I'm here to represent the
19 Paulina area, District 3 as a

20 councilman. My name is Minister
21 Lois Moore, I live at 3122 Reverend
22 Doctor Samuel Jones Street. That
23 street was named after my father.
24 As a concerned citizen of that
25 community we have questions

1 regarding the plant coming into and
2 of course, we oppose that it comes
3 into our community.

4 The question that our
5 constituents have is: What will it
6 bring to the community? Because we
7 - I have information and things
8 that I've read concerning other
9 places that this plant has been and
10 that it let's off an odor. It
11 causes a chemical odor, which causes
12 nausea, other things such as -
13 health issues as headaches and other
14 things that maybe causing to the
15 person that live within that
16 community.

17 So my question is: What will it
18 bring and how will it bring things
19 to our community? How will it bring

20 - what will it bring to our
21 community? Will it benefit our
22 community? As a citizen of the
23 community, as a hazardous or to our
24 lives or - We welcome change. We
25 welcome change, but if this is going

1 to be a hazard to the community,
2 then that's something we oppose
3 strongly.

4 I do have a picture that was
5 taken of my house of where this
6 plant will be. I also go to church
7 right in back the track, a half of
8 mile from right here and there are
9 the other two churches that are that
10 been in that community.

11 So our basic concern is what
12 will it bring to our community? The
13 hazard that it will cause and the
14 lives that it will effect. I, too,
15 as people have stated, is an
16 asthmatic patient. So, you know,
17 our basic concern is health and the
18 welfare of our citizens in that
19 community. Thank you (handing).

20 MS. WRIGHT:

21 Let the Record reflect that Ms.

22 Lois Moore has submitted a

23 photograph, which I have marked as

24 Exhibit Number 14, which will be

25 attached to the Record. That is -

1 that was the last speaker for the
2 group who works within a two-mile
3 radius of the facility.

4 Next up is citizens who live
5 within the parish of the location of
6 the proposed facility. And our
7 first speaker in that group is L.J.
8 St. Pierre. Who will be followed by
9 a Judd Reynaud. Reynaud, excuse me.
10 He'll be followed by Judd Reynaud.

11 MR. ST. PIERRE:

12 I'm L.J. St. Pierre. I reside
13 at 1716 Baytree, Lutchet, Louisiana.
14 I represent the Belle Vue Country
15 Estate and a group of developers who
16 developed it. I also represent the
17 61 homeowners who purchased home
18 sites in this subdivision.

19 This is a proposed 350-home site

20 subdivision and when you take the
21 impact - the economic impact of
22 that subdivision in a lifetime of
23 St. James Parish is greater than
24 Tiger Ethanol plant. This is the
25 question I ask you, I think the

1 economic impact that this proposed
2 subdivision, we have completed Phase
3 I, we have completed Phase II, we're
4 working on phase three. The
5 economic impact on this subdivision
6 would be greater in our lifetime
7 than Tiger Ethanol Plant.

8 I beg you, the DEQ, don't do
9 business as usual in Louisiana.

10 Thank you.

11 MS. WRIGHT:

12 Mr. Judd Reynauld is our next
13 speaker and he's followed by
14 Patricia Melancon.

15 MR. REYNAULD:

16 My name is Judd Reynauld. I
17 live at 6108 Highway 44 Convent and
18 I'm here tonight to oppose the
19 facility and I'm also here tonight

20 to ask the Department of
21 Environmental Quality in the issuing
22 or taking into consideration the
23 permits that are being issued on the
24 river. A lot of permits are being
25 issued as minor source permits.

1 And I've had meetings with the
2 LDEQ in Baton Rouge whereas they
3 permit several operators as minor
4 source, but then they all work
5 together at one particular mile
6 marker, which could be taken as a
7 major source.

8 And another question or concern
9 that I have with regards to this
10 facility here, is once they get the
11 initial permit and permit
12 modifications are started, which is
13 the norm for a lot of the facilities
14 that work along the river, there's
15 really never any input back from the
16 community for the modifications for
17 the permits. Expansions and things
18 of that nature.

19 My wife and I relocated here to

20 the Convent area 10 years ago and
21 when we came here it was peaceful
22 and pleasant and there was a
23 particular industry that was here,
24 which I came out against alone and
25 what ended up happening was they

1 continued to modify those permits.

2 And at that point in time when it
3 comes to the enforcement of it, the
4 enforcement is up in the air.

5 So with that being said, my
6 concerns are that the way in which
7 you-all permit these facilities,
8 impact study what's the impact on
9 the environment? What's the impact
10 of the people? And what is the
11 potential with regards to several
12 minor source facilities getting
13 together in one location to become a
14 major source - a major source
15 permit? So I'm opposed. Thank you.

16 MS. WRIGHT:

17 Our last speaker for this
18 evening is Ms. Patricia Melancon.

19 MS. MELANCON:

20 My name is Patricia Melancon. I
21 live at 5008 Trudeau Street in
22 Convent. First I want to applaud
23 the community organizing that took
24 place to bring out so many people
25 here tonight for a common cause. I

1 come here tonight in solidarity with
2 those who have come here in
3 opposition to this facility or
4 proposed facility.

5 One thing that I'm extremely
6 concerned about and quite disturbed
7 about is that Nimby, N-I-M-B-Y, is
8 alive and well in this hearing room
9 tonight not in my backyard sitting
10 home. Many of you have raised and
11 carry serious concerns about which I
12 share with you. The potential
13 threats to health safety and
14 welfare, the environmental impact of
15 this proposed facility. The close
16 proximity to schools and daycare
17 centers, the loss of the way of
18 life. Toxics and carcinogens and
19 hazardous chemicals.

20 These are the same concerns that
21 we raised ironically 10 years ago
22 this week when DEQ held the second
23 round of hearings on the Shintech
24 permit. Unfortunately, at that time
25 there was also the Nimby virus in

1 St. James Parish, not in our
2 backyards. Many of you did not see
3 fit at that time to act in
4 solidarity with us when we had the
5 same concerns. But that's water
6 under the bridge.

7 The thing that concerns me more
8 is the fact that I have heard so
9 many times tonight by several of you
10 who have been so eloquent in your
11 presentations. That the perfect
12 site has already been chosen for the
13 other facility, or proposed
14 facility. The accepted site that
15 made all parties happy was another
16 comment that was made here.

17 And those remarks were made in
18 regards to a facility that is
19 proposed for Convent. Many of you

20 raised - some of you raised the
21 issue, Mr. Bourgeois raised the
22 issue of the premiere elementary
23 schools in Paulina, Chanel and
24 Paulina Elementary, who serve many
25 students, elementary school

1 students, and it is a school that is
2 a high performing school.

3 I ask you, if the health risks
4 and the safety risks to those
5 children are so great, do you then
6 propose that the children who attend
7 a lower achieving school at
8 Romeville Elementary are less valued
9 and less precious?

10 Many of you spoke of your
11 quality of life and you spoke of
12 your houses and your homes and your
13 property values being diminished and
14 decreased by this proposed facility
15 if it's located here. And many of
16 you submitted pictures of your
17 homes. Many of them with great
18 market value, I'm sure. Would it
19 have been as effective if I

20 presented pictures here tonight for
21 the Record of wood-framed homes and
22 in some cases homes that are falling
23 down, windows that are cracked, and
24 children that are exposed to the
25 toxic and carcinogen and hazardous

1 chemical already from the myriad of
2 toxic hazardous facilities already
3 in District 4 in Convent where this
4 other one is proposed?

5 You also talked about the
6 wetlands being destroyed. I invite
7 you to take a ride up the road into
8 the Convent area and look at the
9 destruction of the wetlands that is
10 going on right now. The
11 deforestation that is taking place.
12 And the ultimate destruction, not
13 only the wetlands, but of our way of
14 life.

15 As a Christian and in solidarity
16 with all of you I also oppose this
17 facility for the Paulina site.

18 Additionally, I oppose the site of
19 that facility in Convent. As you

20 know, Convent is one of the most
21 highly toxic, it has the highest
22 concentration of toxic and hazardous
23 chemical facilities already.

24 It's estimated that Convent
25 already is under 10 times the toxic

1 burden of the national average,
2 annual average of people who are
3 exposed to those toxics.

4 You talk about carcinogens. I
5 lost a mother, 57 years old, to
6 cancer. She died when she was 52.
7 We lived within a one fourth of a
8 mile behind Agrico. I lost a father
9 to cancer. I lost an uncle and an
10 aunt who lived in the same yard with
11 us to cancer. My next door neighbor
12 and all of our little community
13 there was wiped out basically by
14 cancer. So I can ask you -

15 MS. WRIGHT:

16 One minute.

17 MS. MELANCON:

18 I am opposed to it, but I at
19 least want you to consider that are

20 you so willing to make Convent the
21 sacrifice zone and the people of
22 Convent the sacrificial lambs when
23 you talk about economic development?
24 I plead that DEQ needs to,
25 number one, conduct and require an

1 independent comprehensive cost
2 benefit analysis. They need to look
3 at the total emissions including
4 fuel emissions from all sources and
5 include that in their calculations.

6 Identify existing health problems -

7 MS. WRIGHT:

8 Sorry, ma'am. I'm going to have
9 to cut you off.

10 MS. MELANCON:

11 Okay. I think I'm the last
12 speaker.

13 MS. WRIGHT:

14 That concludes our speakers who
15 live within the parish of the
16 location of the facility. At this
17 time I call for the citizens who are
18 in support of the proposed initial
19 synthetic minor source air

20 permitting permit. Are there any
21 that would like to speak?
22 Is there anyone else who would
23 like to have the opportunity to
24 speak either for or - for or
25 against? After - your name, sir?

1 MR. DUCET:

2 Wendell Ducet.

3 MS. WRIGHT:

4 Mr. Ducet. After Mr. Ducet -

5 okay. After Mr. Ducet if there are

6 no others we will allow our - Ms.

7 Melancon to finish her presentation.

8 MR. DUCET:

9 Thank you. I'd like to complete

10 the rest of my presentation that I

11 had started earlier.

12 MS. WRIGHT:

13 You have five minutes.

14 MR. DUCET:

15 Okay. The United States Supreme

16 Court had ruled that this year that

17 carbon dioxide is a pollutant that

18 can be regulated in vehicle

19 admissions in the state of

20 Massachusetts. The DEQ should be
21 able to change their regulations to
22 reflect this change.
23 The DEQ should be able to send
24 back this permit as incomplete and
25 should require that applicant to

1 include carbon dioxide as a
2 pollutant on their list. As an
3 including of that they probably
4 would be a major source of
5 pollution.

6 One last question. Will this
7 facility be following the good
8 neighbor policy? Thank you.

9 MS. WRIGHT:

10 Before Ms. Melancon is allowed
11 time to finish her initial
12 presentation, is there anyone else
13 who would like the chance - the
14 opportunity to speak? For or
15 against? If there are none, Ms.
16 Melancon, please come forward to
17 finish. You will have five minutes.

18 MS. MELANCON:

19 Patricia Melancon and I will

20 continue my comments. Again, I
21 would like to request and urge the
22 DEQ to require an independent
23 comprehensive cost benefit analysis.
24 That they also take into account
25 total emissions including fuel

1 emissions from all sources before
2 determining that this is, in fact, a
3 minor source and not a source that
4 needs to be placed on a major source
5 review. Identify existing health
6 problems in the community.
7 Determine the potential cumulative
8 and synergistic adverse effects,
9 especially to human health with this
10 additional pollution that would be
11 added to our environment.

12 Also, I would like the DEQ to
13 include in that study and in that
14 determination, vulnerable subgroups
15 such as the children, the elderly
16 and those whose systems are
17 compromised by acute and chronic
18 illnesses and health problems
19 because it's known and the research

20 shows that vulnerable individuals
21 who suffer from chronic lung
22 diseases and lung problems and so
23 forth with compromising immune
24 system react much more harshly and
25 much more significantly to the

1 pollution that's in our air, than
2 for example, a healthy, full-grown
3 male or a healthy full-grown female
4 might.

5 Also, I would like DEQ to
6 determine the worst case scenario
7 and make sure that there is a plan
8 in place to address that worst case
9 scenario.

10 Back to that proposed Convent
11 facility, many of you are concerned
12 about the roads that would be used
13 for this proposed facility in
14 Paulina. And I agree that certainly
15 642 is not an adequate source of
16 transportation or a road that could
17 be used as well as the lane or the
18 street in front of Sugar House. But
19 I want you to consider as well that

20 this proposed site in Convent, there
21 are those, including the school
22 children that go to Romeville, that
23 would be locked in into those areas
24 if there were an accident, even on
25 River Road. They have no access to

1 3125 as most of you do on 642 to

2 3125.

3 Their only out of that community

4 is the River Road, 44. So if

5 there's an accident involving any of

6 these trucks on 44 they would not be

7 able to get out. Many of the

8 families in that area live down one-

9 way streets where only one vehicle

10 can fit down the road and they have

11 no access to get out from the back.

12 It is strictly all in back to the

13 front. Many of them have to cross a

14 railroad track, so if there's a

15 danger or a derailment or an

16 accident on the tracks, they can't

17 even get across the tracks to get to

18 LA 44. They're basically stuck in

19 their homes and they'd have to just

20 ride it out.

21 So I'd like you to consider that

22 when you call that Convent site as

23 an accepted perfect site. It's

24 interesting that our public

25 officials passed a resolution

1 opposing this site, including our
2 senators and congressman, when in
3 fact, the public officials seem to
4 support the proposed site in
5 Convent.

6 Again, I ask has Convent been
7 designated the sacrifice zone and as
8 we in Convent been designated the
9 sacrificial lambs in this
10 community's economic development?

11 And I challenge those of you that
12 stood up here tonight with these
13 serious, very serious and valid
14 concerns, and I strongly support you
15 in, I beg you to consider, again, in
16 your own Christian heart when you
17 start saying that it's okay to put
18 these facilities in Convent.

19 I want to remind you Agrico,

20 Occidental we had an iron reduction
21 that came through and left. We have
22 Motiva, we have Dupont and are
23 managed right on the other side. So
24 within a - and not counting the
25 one's on the Westbank of the River,

1 within a 4.5 radius of Convent and
2 the Romeville Elementary School
3 there's about 60 million tons of
4 hazardous toxic materials -

5 MS. WRIGHT:

6 One minute.

7 MS. MELANCON:

8 - that are being emitted into
9 the air. Please consider that when
10 you consider and then claim that
11 that's the perfect site. Not for
12 the people in that community, not
13 for any of us, and none of us should
14 feel comfortable placing those kinds
15 of dangerous facilities on top of
16 people, whether it be people who
17 live in affluent communities and
18 neighborhoods with high-valued
19 homes, or whether it be in

20 communities where there are
21 impoverished people living in lower
22 valued homes and even FEMA trailers
23 because you do need to remember that
24 the FEMA trailers are here as well.
25 So I ask you to keep that

1 mind. I oppose this facility at the
2 Paulina site and I wanted to go on
3 Record, maybe it's too late, to
4 oppose this proposed facility for
5 the Convent site as well.

6 MS. WRIGHT:

7 Are there any other comments?
8 Please give your name and your
9 address for the Record.

10 MS. LAMBERT:

11 My name is Carol Lambert. I
12 reside at 3564 Geismar Street in
13 Paulina. I am a school board member
14 and one of my main concerns all my
15 life is the children. I've raised
16 my children by myself. I see my
17 grandchildren. I have my grand -
18 two grandchildren who are suffering
19 from asthma also. They live in St.

20 John Parish. They purchased land in
21 St. James Parish to get away and
22 have a good home environment here in
23 St. James Parish. And I'm sure if
24 this facility does come to St. James
25 Parish they may think twice about

1 coming here.

2 But a more serious concern is
3 also for the children at Romeville
4 Elementary. So on behalf of our
5 school system, I oppose this ethanol
6 plant to be located in Paulina,
7 Louisiana or in Convent, Louisiana.

8 Thank you.

9 MS. WRIGHT:

10 Are there any other comments? I
11 also want to make note that in
12 addition to those who made their
13 comments here tonight that we also
14 have several opposers who declined
15 to give a verbal statement. And my
16 count is 38 and there may be more.
17 I'm not sure. There are some more
18 outside, but I would just like to
19 note for the Record that those,

20 although they did not speak, that
21 their names and their position will
22 also be attached to the Record.
23 If there are no other comments I
24 remind you that the comment period
25 for this proposed initial synthetic

1 minor source air permitting permit
2 for Tiger State Ethanol, St. Elmo
3 Ethanol facility ends at 12:30 p.m.
4 on Thursday January 31, 2008.

5 I have received a total of 14
6 Exhibits during this hearing. And
7 if there are no other comments I
8 thank you for your attention and
9 participate in this hearing.

10 Let the Record reflect that the
11 time is 9:15 p.m. and this hearing
12 is now closed.

13 (This Hearing was concluded at 9:15 p.m.)

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1 R E P O R T E R ' S P A G E

2 I, Tara Torres, Certified Court

3 Reporter, in and for the State of

4 Louisiana, the officer, as defined in Rule

5 28 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure

6 and/or Article 1434(b) of the Louisiana

7 Code of Civil Procedure, before whom this

8 sworn testimony was taken, do hereby state

9 on the Record:

10 That due to the interaction in the

11 spontaneous discourse of this proceeding,

12 dashes (--) have been used to indicate

13 pauses, changes in thought, and/or

14 talkovers; that same is the proper method

15 for a Court Reporter's transcription of

16 proceeding, and that the dashes (--) do not

17 indicate that words or phrases have been

18 left out of this transcript;

19 That any words and/or names which

20 could not be verified through reference

21 material have been denoted with the phrase

22 "(phonetic)."

23

24 Tara Torres, CCR

25 Certified Court Reporter

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transcript accompanied by my original signature and

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original raised seal on this page.

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That I am not related to counsel or to the

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19

20	Tara Torres (#22012)
21	Certified Court Reporter
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